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## THE NORTH-EASTERN QUESTION.

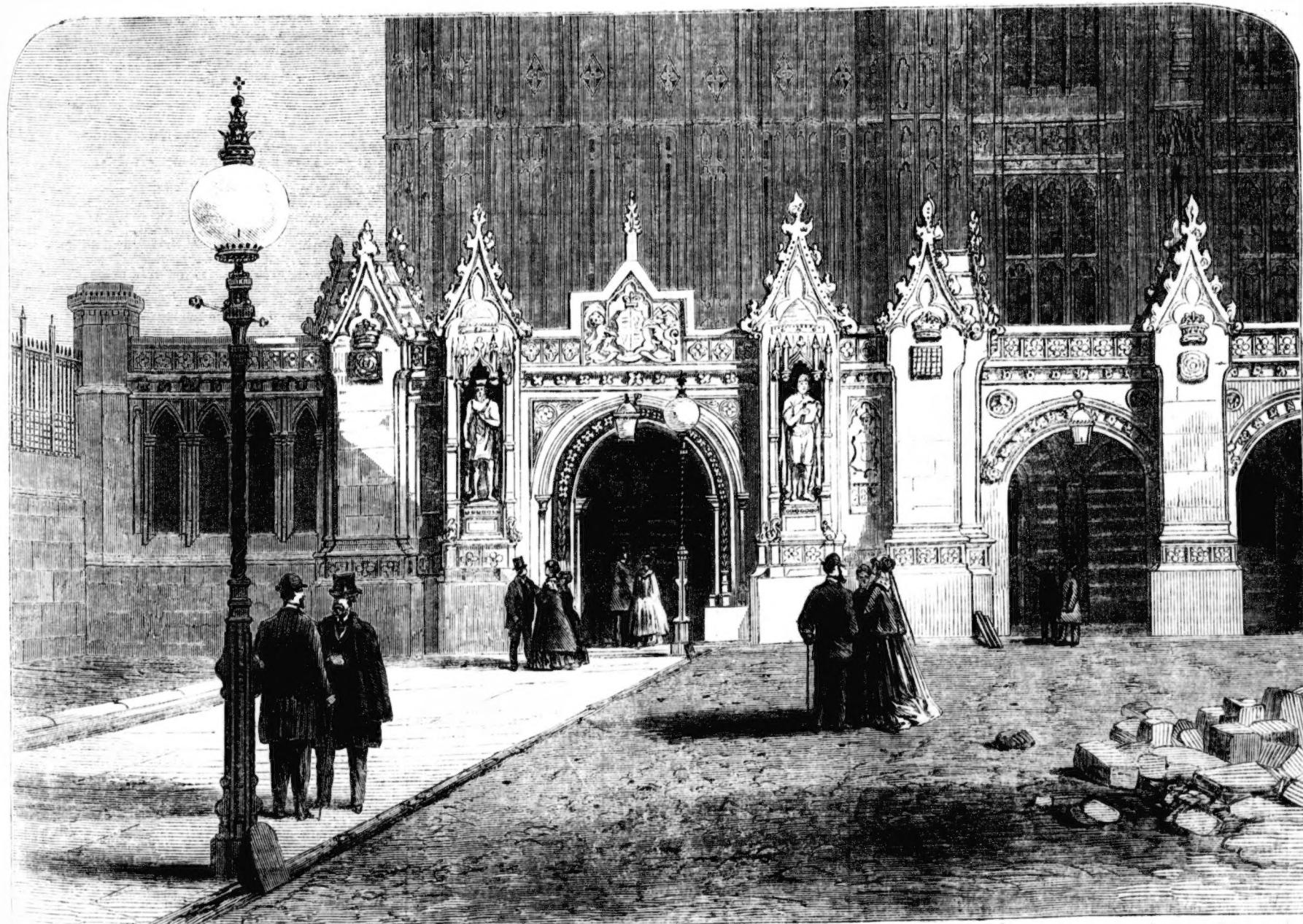
A LITHOGRAPHED political circular has recently been started in Paris, under the title of *Correspondance du Nord-Est*—“Correspondence of, or relating to, the North-East.” The function of the lithographic circular, on the Continent, is to act as a sort of political feeder to the ordinary printed newspapers; and those only are tolerated which adopt and represent, more or less strongly, the views of the Government. The appearance, then, in Paris of a daily sheet of which the professed object is to give news of all political movements in the north-east, or rather in the north and east, of Europe, and which is supplied regularly, for citation and comment, to the established journals, is a sign that what is now going on in the regions pointed to has great interest for the Emperor and his advisers. The Eastern question must indeed, be considered in close connection with the question what is, at this moment, being done in the East by Russia. Formerly, when what is called the “Eastern Question” first came up, during the reign of Louis Philippe, France was looked upon as the great disturber; and England and Russia entered into an alliance for the express purpose of checking French ambition in the Mediterranean. All that is changed now; and at this moment the Powers chiefly interested in the fate of Turkey are falling very much into the position they occupied immediately before the Crimean War. The Crimean War laid the Eastern question at rest for a dozen years; that is a result which certainly cannot be denied. It has also had the effect of deterring Russia from taking open measures against Turkey—a doubtful advantage. But Russia,

for all that, is making secret subterranean war upon her enemy, and perhaps her victim, as resolutely and persistently as though Alma and Inkerman had never been fought, and Sebastopol never been taken by storm.

The notorious difficulties of the Eastern question are not lessened, but, on the contrary, are much increased, by an examination of the development and changes that it has gone through. If we go back to the very curious battle of Navarino, we find the three great maritime nations of Europe—England, France, and Russia—all united in a coalition against Turkey, whose fleet they proceeded to annihilate, just as Russia alone annihilated the Turkish fleet of 1854 at the falsely named “massacre” of Sinope. Russia, at least, knew what she was about at Sinope, as at Navarino. But it is not so easy to understand why England and France considered it to be their interest to support Turkey in the one case, and to weaken her in the other. In 1846, when the expression “Eastern Question” first came up, the allies of Navarino were nearly going to war among themselves. France was still the enemy of the Sultan, not so much because she hated Turkey as because she coveted Egypt, and wished to maintain the rebellious Pacha in his newly acquired temporary independence as a step towards that end. England was determined to support, and did support, the Sultan against his insurgent vassal, and by doing so ran the risk of involving herself in a war with France. Russia looked on, while taking the English side, and giving England what, if the phrase had been invented at that time, would have been called her “moral support;” for what-

ever Russia may wish to do herself, it cannot suit her policy to allow any other Power to dismember Turkey. There was a change of partners again when, soon after the accession of Napoleon III. to the Imperial throne, the series of events took place—as some think, were planned—which led to the alliance of France and England for the protection of Turkey against the attacks of Russia. In short, of the three great maritime Powers who are primarily interested in the Eastern question, all three have made war upon Turkey together and in combination; while Russia has twice, during the last half century (in 1828, and again in 1854), made war upon her on her own account, and France (in 1846) has all but threatened to do so. England alone has, with the sole and certainly very remarkable exception of Navarino, shown herself constantly the friend of Turkey ever since the peace of 1815; and she has once (in 1840) felt called upon to defend the territorial integrity of her ally against the menaces of France, and once (in 1854) against the actual invasion of Russia.

To increase the complication, and render the Eastern question more and more insoluble, the Christian inhabitants of Turkey have now given themselves a voice in the matter; and, to get as many outlying provinces as possible out of the Sultan’s power, are playing the part of cat to Russia’s monkey—at the imminent risk, for the present at least, of burning their fingers. Russia is, nominally and officially, on as friendly terms with Turkey as either England or France. But, while proclaiming aloud her desire to see the integrity and independence of Turkey respected, she is, in fact, under-



THE NEW CLOISTER IN PALACE-YARD, WESTMINSTER.

mining the Turkish power whenever and wherever she sees an opportunity of doing so. The Greeks of Crete, no doubt, hate the Turkish rule, as the Turkish landowners would, to equal certainty, hate the Greek rule if the island, in accordance with Russian suggestions, were to be made over to the King of Greece. But, however that may be, the Cretan insurrection would not have lasted any time, and would soon come to an end now, but for Russian assistance, given almost without disguise. And while Russia is doing her best and worst to keep up the fire of insurrection in Crete, she is threatening Turkey with a new conflagration on the borders of Servia and along the shores of the Danube. Those restless and, politically speaking, uninteresting little nations or "peoples," whose great aspiration it is to form a new and enlarged Servia (to include Roumania, Bulgaria, and any other convenient annexable territory at hand), are kept, by the intrigues and promises of Russian agents, in a perpetual state of ferment; and it is supposed that the Servians, the most warlike of the many unwarlike populations on the lower Danube, after being drilled by Russian officers and supplied with arms by the Russian Government, are now on the point of crossing the frontier to excite disturbances among their neighbours, who, unlike the Servians themselves, are absolutely the subjects of Turkey.

It is known that England and France have addressed notes on this subject to the Servian Government; and it is said that Russia has done the same. That is quite possible. But it is certain, nevertheless, that the movement being prepared in Servia against Turkey is of Russian origin, and that, if the rules of diplomatic etiquette permitted, the remonstrances on the subject ought to be addressed, not to the government of Prince Michael, at Belgrade, but to that of the Emperor Alexander, at St. Petersburg.

#### THE NEW CLOISTER IN PALACE-YARD, WESTMINSTER.

OUR readers have, in the accompanying Engraving, a view of a portion of the handsome and costly cloister lately erected in old Palace-yard. This cloister runs from the members' entrance, in the corner of Palace-yard, on the right—but not shown in the picture—nearly to the foot of Westminster Bridge, on the left. The handsome gateway depicted by the artist is at the foot of the lofty clock-tower. The arch which can just be seen inside the gateway, is the opening to an underground passage which, when completed, will lead, under Bridge-street, to the boat and railway stations on the Thames Embankment. Thus, as our readers will perceive, members of Parliament who do business in the City will be able to walk under cover direct from the House to the boats and the railway. The paved roadway, on which the two gentlemen are standing by the lamp-post, leads to Parliament-street. As this costly structure has already been described and criticised in our columns, nothing more about it need now be said.

#### FLOATING H.M.S. HERCULES.

THE Hercules, 12, armour-plated ship, 1200-horse power, was, on Monday afternoon, successfully floated at Chatham. The Hercules is one of the largest, if not the largest, of war-vessels afloat, and her immense size may be imagined when it is known that there are about 1500 tons of iron in armour-plates used in her construction. The plates used to make this vessel shot-proof vary in thickness. From 5 ft. below the water-line to 9 ft. above it there are 9-in. plates affixed; for eight tiers above this there are plates of 8-in.; above these, 6-in.; and on the thwart-ship bulkheads, 5-in. Behind these plates there is a teak backing 1 ft. in thickness. The Hercules is from designs by Mr. E. J. Reed, Chief Constructor of the Navy, and was commenced June 21, 1866, so that a little more than eighteen months have been taken up in building her. The dimensions, &c., of the Hercules are as follow:—Extreme length, 338 ft. 6 in.; extreme breadth, 59 ft.; depth in hold, 21 ft.; burden in tons, 5226 5-94ths. Preparations were made for the floating out of the vessel on Saturday, but some members of the Admiralty were unable to be present. The following Lords of the Admiralty attended yesterday:—The Right Hon. Henry Thomas Lowry Corry, M.P.; Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, K.C.B.; and Rear-Admiral George Henry Seymour, C.B., M.P. There were also present Rear-Admiral Robinson, Comptroller of the Navy; Mr. E. J. Reed, Admiral King; Admiral Sir Baldwin Wake Walker, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief at the Nore; Major-General Freeman Murray, commanding the troops in garrison, and his aide-de-camp, Captain H. F. Herries; Colonel Simmons, C.B., director of the Royal Engineer Establishment, Brompton; Colonel Pasley, R.E.; Captain Montgomerie, R.N.; Captain Houston Stewart, C.B., and the yard officers. A large number of the officers of the garrison also attended. Altogether it is computed that there were about 5000 or 6000 persons congregated to witness the monster vessel leave the dock. The vessel was christened by Miss Corry, daughter of the First Lord of the Admiralty. Mr. Thornton, the master shipwright, then handed the young lady a beautifully-carved box, containing a chisel and mallet, with which Miss Corry severed the last rope which held the vessel. The vessel immediately began to move, the band playing "Rule Britannia," and she entered the river without a mishap of any description.

**FIRE AT THE OXFORD MUSIC-HALL.**—Between three and four o'clock on Tuesday morning the Oxford Music-hall was found to be on fire; by five nearly everything inflammable in it had been destroyed. The fire is supposed to have originated in the ignition of one of the seats stuffed with cocoanut matting, from the ash of a cigar or the end of a fusee. The watchman first discovered it, and he aroused Mr. Morton, and the two together poured water on the flames, which, however, spread too rapidly to be subdued by such simple means. The blazing up of the roof first gave intimation of the disaster to the police outside the building. The firemen, though they promptly answered the call made on them, came too late to do more than save the surrounding property. The Salvage Corps was of great use. Many of the instruments destroyed belonged to former members of the orchestra at Her Majesty's Theatre, who have been twice burnt out this season.

**EXPENSIVE CHARITY.**—Just at present, when there is so much destitution in the country, and when it is consequently so important that there should be no waste of charitable funds, the statement of accounts given in last year's report of the United Kingdom Beneficent Association deserves attention. The object of the association is to assist "persons belonging to the upper and middle classes in temporary distress." Its president is Lord Calthorpe, and among the vice-presidents are Lord Bredalbane, Lord Bandon, Lord Berners, the Bishop of Cork, the Dean of Carlisle, &c. Lord Harberton is chairman of the executive committee. In the year 1866 the association, which appears to have an annual income of over £2000, distributed the munificent sum of £98 10s. among nineteen annuitants (some £5 3s. apiece), and £49 1s. in donations to cases of distress—altogether £147 11s. in charity. On the other hand, we find that rent, office furniture, and sundries absorbed £95 18s. 8d.; deputation expenses and commission, £194 8s. 11d.; printing and advertising, £60 10s. 6d.; postage and stationery, £42 3s. 9d. That is to say, it costs no less than £393 to distribute £147; or, in other words, for every penny given in charity nearly twopence is spent in the office. "This most valuable association," say the directors, "is the only one of its particular kind in existence." We should be glad to think that it was exceptional in the character of its balance-sheet; but we fear that it is only a type of a large class of similar institutions in filtering through which the funds of the charitable leave a considerable deposit behind, and reach the poor only in a very attenuated form.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

#### Foreign Intelligence.

##### FRANCE.

The discussion on the Press Bill continues in the Corps Législatif. M. Jules Favre has been unable to carry an amendment proposing to have press offences tried by jury. It was said in answer to him that the present tribunals were good enough; they did not always convict persons charged with press offences. True, said M. Pelletan, when those persons merely offend against decency and morality they are often let off; when they offend against the Government, never. M. Favre caused a fearful explosion of Ministerial wrath by accusing the Government of having juggled away the liberties of the people in 1852. He had to apologise.

The departmental journals publish a circular of the Minister of War, dated Feb. 4, enjoining the prefects of the different departments to order immediately a census to be made of the men called to compose the National Garde Mobile. The result of the census will be published between Feb. 16 and 23. The circular points out that the object of the measure is simply to inscribe the names of the men on the lists, without there being any necessity for calling the men together at present.

The printing establishment of the Abbé Migne has been burnt down. The damages are estimated at 6,000,000f.

##### ITALY.

It is stated in a Florence newspaper that the King of Italy signed a decree, on the 9th inst., authorising the retirement of the Marquis d'Azeffio from his post as Minister at the Court of St. James's.

The report of the Committee on the budget of Count Cambray-Digny proposes an increase of the amount demanded by the Minister from 649,040,264 lire to 736,228,344 lire. This difference arises principally from the expenses attending the conversion of the ecclesiastical property. The Committee also propose a reduction of 1,109,818 lire in the administrative expenses, and an increase of 1,250,000 lire for supplementary circulation of Treasury Bonds. The value of the remaining ecclesiastical property is estimated at 1,027,000,000 lire. The Committee propose the institution of an agricultural credit establishment, based on the mutual principle; and the abolition of pensions, substituting for them a system of private assurance banks.

General Dumont has arrived in Rome and assumed command of the French troops in Papal territory.

##### PRUSSIA.

The Chamber of Deputies have passed the bill for establishing a special fund for the province of Hanover, with the amendment of Deputy Kardoff for including in the ordinary budget a yearly sum of half a million thalers for that purpose, by 200 to 168 votes. It is reported that the King is much annoyed by the attitude of the Conservative party on the above measure. Count Bismarck has requested and obtained of his Majesty a lengthened leave of absence.

A rumour is current that the resignation of Count von Bulow may shortly be expected, and that the Ministry of the Interior has been offered to Herr von Forckenbeck, the President of the Chamber, who, before accepting it, has requested time for consideration.

##### AUSTRIA.

The Reichsrath reassembled on Monday. Dr. Kaiserfeld was elected President of the Lower House. In acknowledging his election he alluded to the guarantees for the commencement of a constitutional system which had been afforded by the appointment of a Parliamentary Ministry, and said that a Ministry which was the interpreter of the sentiments of the Reichsrath would certainly receive the support of the House. Prince Auersperg, the President of the Council, asked the House to place confidence in the Ministry, in order that the system now introduced might be strengthened. The Ministry had been appointed in order to carry out the principle of dualism, and was upon the most cordial footing with the Government of Hungary. Without trenching upon the principle of self-government, it would, in case of necessity, strictly enforce the observance of the laws. It desired to promote the strength of the State in union with the Reichsrath. Baron von Beust, in reply to an interpellation on the political situation, fully explained the present foreign relations of the empire; and, in conclusion, said he considered the foreign relations of Austria to be of so peaceful a nature that all danger of war must appear as a thing only to be brought about by extraordinary events. Although every effort was being made to ward off all dangers, and although there was every reason to hope that peace would be maintained, yet, on the other hand, it appeared necessary to maintain the army on such a footing as would enable Austria, if necessary, to assume an attitude inspiring respect, and at a short notice to send her army in the field ready for action.

##### GREECE.

Differences between the members of the Cabinet have ended in the whole Ministry resigning. A new Ministry has been formed, under the presidency of Bulgaria Simo.

A Royal decree has been issued dissolving the Chambers. The elections are fixed for March 3. The new Chambers are to meet on May 3.

##### SERVIA AND ROUMELIA.

The Paris *Etendard* says that the armed bands assembled in the Danubian Principalities consist of 2000 Servians, Russians, and Roumans. It is asserted, says the same journal, that France, England, Austria, and even Russia, have made representations on the subject to the Rouman Government.

The Paris *Patrie* says:—"The news from Servia keeps the diplomacy of the Western Cabinets in suspense. We believe we may state that very energetic representations have again been transmitted to Belgrade. Yesterday M. Cretzulesco, the Rouman agent in Paris, officially communicated to the Cabinet of the Tuilleries a formal denial on the part of his Government of any participation, direct or indirect, in Russian or Servian manoeuvres. England, France, and Austria are perfectly well informed of the character and possible consequence of these manoeuvres. The three Cabinets are, therefore, ready to face any eventualities which might arise from a state of affairs the dangers attending which have already been pointed out to the Rouman Government."

##### THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Edward Thornton, the newly-appointed British Minister to the United States, was presented to President Johnson on the 7th inst., by Mr. Seward, and was cordially received.

It is officially announced at Washington that the treaty ceding the island of St. Thomas to the United States has been ratified at Copenhagen.

The Senate has adopted a resolution asking the President for information relative to the trial of Father M'Mahon and Colonel Lynch by the British authorities. The bill concerning the rights of naturalised citizens abroad has been reported by the Committee of Foreign Affairs to the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives has ordered an inquiry to be instituted into the conduct of a Judge of the Supreme Court, who is said to have declared that the Reconstruction Act was unconstitutional, and that the Supreme Court would decide to that effect.

A Democratic mass meeting had been held in that city, at which resolutions denouncing the proceedings of Congress as revolutionary, and approving the acts of the President, were passed. Many of the speakers were in favour of nominating Mr. Johnson for the presidency.

The military authorities have moved the Supreme Court to dismiss the M'Ardle test case, on the ground of want of jurisdiction.

##### MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 22nd ult. report that a revolt had broken out in Sonora against Juarez.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE FIRST SWEDISH CHAMBER has just decided, by eight votes to seven, in favour of the abolition of capital punishment. That resolution was adopted contrary to the opinion of the Minister of Justice, Baron de Geer, who is opposed to any change.

#### AMERICAN NATURALISED CITIZENS.

THE American papers and letters are full of the bill on the rights of naturalised citizens now before the House of Representatives. With the bill the foreign committee present a report in which the entire subject of the rights and duties of naturalised Americans when abroad is considered. It states that the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States at the close of the War of Independence in 1783 left three questions unsettled—the impressment of seamen, the right of search, and the question of expatriation. The first two, the committee say, were virtually put at rest by the war of 1812-14, but the last is still unsettled. Since 1776 the total emigration to America from Europe has amounted to 6,610,000, and those who were English subjects the English law holds with their descendants still to be English subjects. The committee add that the question of their rights becomes very important, and then proceed to state that the various documents presented to Congress show that "Naturalised citizens of the United States, being present in Great Britain, without the commission of any offence, have been arrested, tried, convicted, sentenced, and punished as criminals upon the ground that they were natural-born subjects of the Crown; that their allegiance was perpetual and indefeasible, except by its consent; and that they were subject, therefore, to its laws, and liable to punishment, not only for offences committed within its jurisdiction, but for words spoken and acts performed in the United States. They claim the protection of their adopted country, which has made them citizens, and conferred upon them the same rights, both at home and abroad, which are enjoyed by native-born Americans. The Government is in duty bound to listen to their appeals and to protect them in their rights."

To show the number of people affected by the claims of foreign States to allegiance, the report enters into an analysis of the population of the United States. The country now has 35,000,000 inhabitants; in 1790 the free people numbered 3,250,000, and these, with an annual increase of births over deaths, estimated at 1·38 per cent, would now number 9,250,000, which the emancipated slaves will swell to 13,250,000. The balance of the present population of the United States, 21,750,000, are immigrants and their descendants, and if three fifths of the population are subjects of various European States, and their allegiance is due to them, and in consequence these people are debarred from travel and subject to arrest and compulsory service in foreign armies, organised perhaps, to fight against America, "then," the report says, "the United States has no independent existence. It may have numbers, industry, commerce, letters, science, invention, coinage, enterprise, wealth, prosperity, and power—but it is not independent. Its dreams of equality are delusions, and its sacrifices have been in vain. Every State in Europe will have its garrisons, if these claims are admitted, in every part of the Union. The able-bodied portion of three fifths of our population could be summoned to fight for Governments with which they have no connection, and against those with which their future fortunes are indissolubly united, and they would be accounted traitors if found in the ranks of their armies."

#### THE FENIANS.

THE protracted examination before Sir Thomas Henry of the eight prisoners charged with wilful murder, arising out of the Fenian explosion at Clerkenwell, was expected to have closed on Tuesday; but, after the depositions had been read over, Mr. Giffard, counsel for the Crown, said he had unexpectedly received some important information, and must therefore ask for a remand until that day week; which was granted. English, it is understood, is anxious to follow the example of Mullany, and give "Queen's evidence;" but his offer has been rejected. The prisoners are described as having a dejected and downcast aspect; the only exception being Anne Justice, who appears to have recovered her health and spirits since the last examination.

Several important arrests of Fenian leaders have been made in Cork. Amongst them is that of a Captain Mackay, said to be "late of the American army," and concerned in, if not the moving spirit of, all the recent outrages in Cork. He has been identified, also, as the leader in several attacks upon sundry police stations in March last. He made a desperate resistance, wounding a policeman with a shot from his revolver in the leg. A mob attempted to rescue the prisoner, and were beaten off by a charge of bayonets. Five other leading Fenians, armed with revolvers, have also been apprehended. On Tuesday the police charged the mob with sword and bayonet, wounding many of them and killing one. The officers were attacked with stones while they were removing two prisoners charged with firing on a detective on Sunday night. They effected a secure retreat to the prison, but several of them were severely hurt. Late at night the Riot Act was read. Great excitement exists in the city, and serious rioting has occurred. Several attempts have been made to shoot policemen.

True bills have been returned against Sullivan and Pigott for seditious libel.

An old rhyme says "that the Irish have an Irish way in all they think, or do, or say;" and it seems somewhat illustrated by the proceedings against Lennon at the Dublin Spring Assizes, on Tuesday. It will be remembered that, after the prisoner had been committed for treason-felony, he was further charged with the wilful murder of Constable Kenna, and committed for trial. The prisoner upon this made a blustering little speech to the effect that he did not mind the gallows at all for high treason, but it was very hard to run the risk of being hanged for so common a crime as murder. The Irish authorities appear very obligingly to have had regard for the prisoner's feelings, as the telegraph states that, having been found guilty of treason-felony, he is now to be indicted, not for murdering the policeman who was killed, but for shooting, with intent to kill, at the other, who was only wounded, the two shots having been fired from the same revolver and by the same person.

AMERICAN LIBRARIES.—A Boston paper says that Mr. Charles Francis Adams, Minister to England, is possessor of the largest private library in Boston. It contains 18,000 volumes, and includes those that belonged to his father and grandfather. The late Theodore Parker's library, bequeathed to the Boston Public Library, contained 10,000 valuable, and some of them rare, books. The library of the late Abbott Lawrence (19,000 volumes) has been sold and scattered, as also has been that (7000 volumes) of Rufus Choate. The libraries of Edward Everett and W. H. Prescott, each containing about 7000 volumes, have been preserved by their families, as also has that of Daniel Webster, containing 5000 volumes, chiefly on law. Mr. George Livermore, of Cambridge, is believed to have had the richest library in old Bibles and biblical works in the world; at his death, nearly all his books (4000) were bequeathed to Harvard University.

THE BISHOPRIC OF NATAL.—The Bishop of London has published a rejoinder to a letter from Dr. Gray to him, in which he defines his own position with regard to Bishop Colenso. Dr. Tait says:—"I understand you to ask me whether I hold Bishop Colenso to be not only the titular but the actual Bishop of Natal notwithstanding your deposition of him. I should have thought there could be no doubt as to my opinion on this subject after what I have already publicly stated. The words in which you mention that I couched a circular letter sent in 1866 to Bishop Colenso, together with all the colonial Bishops and other dignitaries, show the same thing—viz., that seeing that Bishop Colenso has refused to resign his position to be null and void are removed, however much I may regret it, regard him as still holding his office. I cannot, as at present advised, recognise the force of the arguments which lead you and many others entitled to the highest respect to look upon him as spiritually deposed, when the proceedings by which he is said to have been deposed are granted to be null and void in law, and when very grave doubts exist in the minds of those whom I regard as best informed as to their regularity even according to ancient ecclesiastical precedent. You seem also to ask me whether I am prepared to assist you and others in opposing Bishop Colenso's errors. I might fairly refer you in answer to my published utterances; but it is only courteous to assure you again, as I most gladly do, that in every lawful and proper way I desire to assist you and others in maintaining the great doctrine of the paramount and Divine authority of Holy Scripture. But my experience has led me to believe, with respect to Bishop Colenso and all others who teach what I believe to be dangerous error, that nothing is so likely to give them influence as any appearance of unfairness in the mode of treating them, or any endeavour, through zeal against them and their errors, to override the law."

## ILLUSTRATED TIMES

## METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

At the usual weekly meeting of the members of this board, held on the 7th inst., the report of the committee of the whole board submitting evidence taken by them in relation to the depositions of Mr. Furness before the Registrar in Bankruptcy was submitted, and the following resolutions were considered:—

By Mr. Silas Taylor—"That this board, having investigated the evidence of Mr. Furness, given before the Registrar of the Bankruptcy Court on oath, and adhered to by him, are of opinion that the statements made by him have been proved."

Mr. Le Breton moved as amendments—"That the board, having considered the allegations made by Mr. Furness before the Commissioner in Bankruptcy, and subsequently, as far as they affect Mr. Doulton and Mr. Roche, members of this board, as also the statements of those gentlemen and of others, and the letters and documents now submitted by the committee appointed to investigate the matter, find—1. That the terms on which Messrs. Cleland and Clench agreed to become bound for the due performance of his contract by Mr. Furness were negotiated by Mr. Doulton; that, though part of the consideration passed through his hands, he denies having retained any portion for his own benefit; and it is admitted by the sureties that the whole amount was received and appropriated by them. 2. That Mr. Roche, who was not the standing solicitor of the Lundy Granite Company, but engaged specially for the occasion while the acceptance of the tender of Mr. Furness was pending before the board, obtained a written agreement from him to purchase from that company, on certain specified terms, any granite which might be required on the works, and that it was stipulated in such agreement that Mr. Doulton should be the referee, in case of any dispute between the parties. Mr. Roche has stated that he acted merely in a professional capacity, and such statement is proved to be correct by letters from officers of the Lundy Granite Company. 3. That the board deprecates the taking part by its members, in business or professional transactions, with parties connected with the works of the board in matters relating thereto, as calculated injuriously to affect the character of the board in the conduct of its business."

After a very long discussion a vote was taken, when there appeared

For the amendment ... ... ... 15

Against it ... ... ... 15

The chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment, and then vacated the chair, which was taken by Mr. Savage.

It was afterwards stated that Mr. Bevan's name had not been recorded, and after some discussion the chairman ruled that it must be inserted, which negatived the amendment.

On the original motion being put,

Mr. Cook moved the following amendment:—"That this board, having no power to summon witnesses, to compel the production of books and papers, or to examine on oath, do not feel that the evidence given by Mr. Furness before the Registrar in the Bankruptcy Court has either been confirmed or disproved by the statement laid before the committee, and must therefore leave Mr. Doulton to meet those charges in the way in which he deems best."

This amendment, on being put, was also negatived.

Some other amendments were moved, and great disorder prevailed. Mr. Newton remarked that he never saw the board in such a state of disorder during the six years he had been a member of it, and it looked very much like a bear-garden.

Eventually, the original motion was put, and seven voted for it and twenty against it, so that no decision was come to upon the subject, although it had been discussed for upwards of five hours.

Mr. Doulton handed a protest censuring the proceedings which had been taken against him, and taking exception to the way in which they had been conducted.

A motion was made "That it be entered on the minutes;" to which Mr. Richardson moved an amendment, "That the protest lie on the table, and that the receipt of it be not recorded in the minutes," which was put, and carried by fifteen to six.

**THE IRISH CHURCH.**—A very disorderly meeting took place at Manchester, on Monday, on the subject of the Irish Church. It was convened by the Mayor, but was promoted by the Liberation Society; and the clergy and Sunday-school teachers connected with the Church of England in the city were whipped up (so it is stated in the reports) to prevent the originators of the movement carrying their resolutions. The result was that an amendment declining to pronounce in favour of disendowment was carried by a considerable majority. Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P., was received with so much interruption that he could not finish his speech, although the Mayor interposed to obtain for him a hearing.

**REFORM CONFERENCE AT MANCHESTER.**—On Tuesday a conference of the members and friends of the National Reform Union was held in the Townhall, Manchester. Mr. George Wilson, the president, occupied the chair, and there were on the platform Messrs. Bazley, M.P.; R. N. Phillips, M.P.; Jacob Bright, M.P.; Hugh Mason, J. R. Cooper, J. B. Torr, W. Warburton, Alderman Harvey, &c. There were delegates present representing various branches of the union in all parts of the kingdom, the attendance being large. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, congratulated the members of the National Reform Union on the results they had, by the agitation which they had carried on, achieved since its formation by the working men of Leeds. But only one portion of its programme had been, and that only partially, accorded to them. The following resolution was passed, on the motion of Mr. Bazley, M.P.:—"This conference is glad to recognise the homage paid to the principle of household suffrage in the Reform Act of last Session, but regards that Act as an instalment only of Parliamentary Reform. This conference condemns the redistribution of seats as totally insignificant and worthless; the ratepaying clauses as unnecessary and vexatious; the representation of minorities as absurd, unjust, and unconstitutional; and is of opinion that energetic action is more than ever required in order to remove the highly objectionable enactments in the bill and to secure the remaining and still more important objects for which the National Reform Union has so long contended." A second resolution was proposed, by Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P.:—"This conference considers it the duty of Reformers everywhere to demand and put forth renewed efforts to obtain, 1, the repeal of the ratepaying clauses; 2, the abolition of the representation of minorities; 3, the assimilation of the county to the borough franchise; 4, the protection of the voter by means of the ballot; 5, a just and equitable redistribution of seats, in proportion to population and property; 6, the shortening of the duration of Parliament to three years." Another resolution was passed calling upon the branches of the union to further its objects by every means in their power.

**COCKADES.**—In reply to a correspondent, who asks whether cockades in servants' hats indicate any particular rank, what is their origin, and who are entitled to use them, the editor of *Notes and Queries* gives the following information:—"The name appears to have been of French origin. Roquefort defines 'Cockarde, touffe de rubans que sous Louis XIII. on portait sur le beret, et que ondait la crête du coq;'" though, in an interesting paper by late Mr. John Wilson Croker, he says the cockade was merely the knot of the ribbon that served to *cock* the broad flapped hat worn by military men in the seventeenth century, and derives its name from that circumstance. The badge, favour, or cockade of Charles I. was scarlet; but upon the restoration of Charles II. white was assumed, derived from the white rose, the badge of the house of Stuart; and that being also the badge of Poland, it became doubly identified with the Stuarts from the marriage of the Old Pretender with Princess Sobieski. We believe a white rose is still worn on June 19 by some enthusiastic admirers of the fallen dynasty. An orange cockade was the badge of the house of Orange, and the black cockade that of the house of Hanover. The black and white cockades, it will be remembered, are contrasted in "Waverley"; and an old Scotch song, speaking of the Battle of Sherramuir, describes the English soldiery as "The red-coat lads wi' black cockades." The black cockade being recognised as the badge of the house of Hanover, it will be seen at once how it came to be worn by the servants of the officers of the Army and Navy. Thus much for the origin of the black cockade. The next question—who are entitled to place them in the hats of their servants?—seems involved in considerable obscurity. It was formerly understood to be limited to the servants of all gentlemen holding the rank of field officers; and as their servants were, for the most part, soldiers, the cockade preserved its military character; but it is clearly not so limited in practice at the present time. We may here state, on the best authority, that no orders regulating the use of cockades are known to exist. With reference to the question as to the right of volunteer officers to give cockades to their servants, now frequently agitated, precedent is against it, as it is recorded that the servants of the officers of the old City Light Horse did not wear them; but, on the other hand, it is stated that the manner in which volunteer officers are recognised in recent Acts of Parliament gives them the same privileges in this respect as officers of the regulars. In a curious article by Mr. Maclean, from which we have taken some of this epitome, the reader will find an account of the various-coloured cockades worn by the servants of foreign Ambassadors in this country.

## SHIPBUILDING ON THE THAMES.

No subject is more frequently and more prominently brought under the notice of the British public at the present time than the distress in the east end of London. In constant association with that subject is another respecting which much is said, but very little is understood, though it lies at the root of the exceptional destitution which now prevails in a large and important district of the metropolis. Every trade has its mysteries, and as long as those engaged in it can go on with their own business without troubling other people, outsiders are generally content to remain in ignorance of what they suppose to be perfectly clear to those who make their living by it. But when the public are called in as arbiters between master and man they have a right to demand that they shall be furnished with the premises on which they are asked to draw a conclusion. At meetings of the artisans and in letters to the newspapers the depression, amounting almost to temporary extinction, of shipbuilding on the Thames has been discussed at very great length. Various causes have been assigned for it, and not unnaturally; but an astonishing feature in the discussions is this—that scarcely any two of the authorities are agreed as to the usages of the trade. As a result of this the world is now puzzled to know on what principle work in the Thames yards is conducted—whether what a man receives per day is his day's wages; whether the nominal employers are the real masters or merely the patrons of a horde of small contractors; whether the men would rather live upon charity or work for their support, and whether the shipbuilders themselves are not so blessed as to be bent on driving away the trade and letting their yards lie waste and their machinery go to rot. But we shall see whether the whole question may not be brought within the bounds of ordinary comprehension. Now, in the first place, a little more accuracy as to terms than that usually employed by speakers and writers on this subject may do much to clear the way. The word "shipwright" is constantly made to do duty as a name for all the artisans employed in the building of an iron ship, whereas in such establishments as those of Mr. Samuda and the Thames Shipbuilding Company, and generally in "iron yards"—that is, places in which only iron ships are built—the shipwright does only the woodwork in the hull of the vessel. The ironwork is done by an entirely different set of men, who may be described by the general term "boiler-makers." These, again, are divided into different classes—viz., platers, angle-iron smiths, frame-benders, riveters, and caulkers. There are "helpers," or labourers, for each of those classes.

In Wigram's, Green's, and some other yards, the "shipwrights" do both iron and wood work; but these men are in the Wood Shipwrights' Union when they are union men. The shipwrights and the platers are the leading hands among the shipbuilding artisans, and in the discussions on the state of the trade their case is the one commonly put before the public. But this fact must be borne in mind by anyone who wishes to understand the subject—that a strike on the part of any particular class may throw the whole system out of gear, and effectually stop the work under contract. In addition to the artisans whom we have named, fitters, painters, and joiners have also to be brought into requisition before a ship can leave the builder's hands. An examination of the books of any of the leading builders will show that for several years the Thames wages for shipwrights has been from 6s. 6d. to 7s. a day. Up to 1862 the greater number seem to have been rated at 6s. 6d.; from that time to the end of 1866 7s. was the rule and 6s. 6d. the exception; and in 1867 7s. became the minimum rate. The platers have received about the same wages. The pay of the helpers or labourers is usually from 21s. to 24s. a week. Taking a total number of 217 employed in one yard at the beginning of 1867, they were receiving on an average 22s. 7d. each. Of these as many as eighty-three were paid 21s., while only ten were in receipt of less than a guinea.

Our readers will remember that at the Burdett Hall meeting a great outcry was raised against what was called the sub-contract or "middle-man" system. It was alleged that this it was which did the great injury to both the employers and the employed, in making it necessary for the former to charge higher prices than the builders in the north of England and on the Clyde, and in keeping from the men the legitimate value of their labour. The speakers at the meeting to which we refer did not, as they ought to have done, descend to particulars. If they objected to masters contracting with a foreman for the work of a whole ship or a very considerable portion of it, they objected to a very mischievous proceeding, but one which, if adopted lately by any builder, is, we believe, by no means the rule. Such a thing was done at one time by a firm which no longer exists; and it resulted in considerable loss to the builder, who on one occasion discovered that his sub-contractor was drawing wages for "dummies"—men who only existed on paper. If they objected to the piecework system, which does generally prevail in the Thames yards, they were conveying a false impression to the public and making a grievance of what, as we shall presently show, is very much for their own benefit, and what their own committee admitted at a conference last week is one of the necessities of the trade. In the building of iron ships piecework is almost invariably the rule; so that, when the men talk of 5s., or 6s., or 7s. a day, the sum so named does not represent the entire of their day's earnings, but only the amount which they draw for each day's work while the job at which they are engaged is in hand. The money so drawn, however, is what the day's wages would come to if the men were not at piecework; but the advantage of the piecework system is that it gives him an opportunity of earning more per day than his ordinary day's wages, the balance being handed to him when the job is finished.

In the shipbuilding trade it is a great advantage to the master to have the work done as quickly as possible. In the first place, he is under contract to deliver up the ship by a certain day; in the next, being bound by his customer to a fixed price, he is anxious to diminish, as far as possible, the chances of a "strike" before the contract is completed. Then, as the men are to receive a certain price for the finished work, and as the man who works the greatest number of hours will both draw the most money as the job progresses and have the largest balance coming to him when it is done, they are interested in bringing it to a close with the greatest possible dispatch. To illustrate the practical operation of the system, we shall give an actual case in point. In the beginning of 1866 one of the Thames firms put about forty men, mechanics and helpers, on piecework at plating the skin of a large ship. The contract price with the men was £1304. The principal platers drew from 6s. to 7s. a day, the helpers 4s. a day, and so on; the number of hours worked each week being divided into so many days of ten hours each. By the time the job was completed the men had drawn £1008 15s., so that there remained to be paid to them a sum of £295 5s., or more than one fourth of what they would have been paid if working at ordinary day wages, supposing the balance to have been divided among them all; but as it is probable that the helpers, or certainly the greater number of them, were not in the contract, the artisans had a much larger sum coming to them than what would be represented by 25 per cent added to their day's draw. It is true that in making such a contract the master deals with but one or two persons, who are regarded as foremen, because he must have some one directly responsible to him for the carrying out of the agreement; but every man of the forty or other number employed on the job is put on by the master, and receives his draw each week from the master's office. The helpers also benefit by the work being given in this way, even though they may not be partners in the contract, because the best men of their class are put on by the masters, and draw out of the contract sum the best rates paid to that class.

But what is the cause of the present depression in the trade, and is there any chance of the work coming back? It is fair to the men to at once state that the best authorities among the masters attribute the present unprecedented slackness to a variety of causes, of which the wages question is not the principal one. The Thames yards have the very highest reputation for first-class work, and in this description of shipbuilding they can compete with any other yards in the kingdom; but when it comes to colliers and third or fourth rate passenger-

ships, for which cheaper materials and inferior workmanship will do, they cannot enter the lists with some of the establishments in the north. Owing to the general stagnation in trade and to the temporary unwillingness of capitalists to enter into commercial speculations, there is at present little demand for that kind of shipbuilding in which the London builders excel. Again, during the bubble period which preceded the last panic, yards were opened on the Thames by persons with no knowledge of the trade, who procured plenty of work at prices which, as the results have shown, in some instances did not more than cover the cost of materials. To execute this ruinous work mechanics and labourers were brought from other parts of the country to the Isle of Dogs and that neighbourhood in a number very much in excess of that for which there could at any time be legitimate employment. These are the main causes of the exceptional distress among the workmen in the East-End. But there remains another and by no means unimportant element in the difficulty. This is the uncertainty the masters feel in respect of the terms on which they can get work done. Each class of the mechanics have taken their own opportunity of demanding an increase. We have shown how the shipwrights got their wages up to a minimum of 7s. per day. Early in 1866 the painters succeeded in getting an increase of from 30s. to 33s. per week; a little later in the same year the fitters had theirs raised from 36s. to 38s. The trades unions are at the bottom of it all. Though the ironworkers are not so directly under their influence as the shipwrights, that influence is felt throughout all the branches of the trade. The secretary of the committee appointed at Burdett Hall stated the other day that the trades union authorities would only treat with the masters, and that no workman could "dare" to stand up and accept terms. The trades unions have never completely succeeded in having things their own way in the Thames yards. The masters have retained the power of rating men according to their abilities. Should the unions ultimately succeed in doing what they like on the Thames, it will be an evil day for British shipbuilding; because, no doubt, their next step would be to raise wages and forbid rating in the north of England and on the Clyde. This would send the trade out of the country altogether. If the artisans have any proposal the builders express themselves willing to give it their best attention, with a view of seeing whether contracts may not be had if they can be taken on lower terms than those which the Thames firms succeed in procuring in better times. But it is in vain for the men to hope that the masters will make offers to the trades unions. It is only friendly to tell them this. There is at present no strike or ill-feeling between masters and men. The notion that there was might interrupt the flow of public benevolence. Such a result would be truly lamentable. What may on every ground be described as "exceptional" distress largely prevails and is increasing in the neighbourhood of Poplar and the Isle of Dogs. Strong hopes are entertained that things will be very much better before long; but, in the mean time, to withhold relief from the sufferers would be, as regards the great majority of them, to confound the innocent with the guilty; and, as regards the remainder, to inflict a severe punishment on those who have erred through a blind dependence on the wisdom of an organisation which undertakes to think for them rather than through any obstinacy of their own.—*Times*.

## ENTERTAINMENT TO RAGGED-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

On the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 4, the children of the ragged schools connected with St. George the Martyr, Southwark, and a number of teachers, &c., took tea in St. George's Chapel, Collier's rents. The Rev. Hugh Allen, D.D., Rector, presided; and there were present 272 children from the ragged schools belonging to the parish, together with about twenty teachers and friends. The funds for this entertainment were contributed by a number of Dr. Allen's friends, the Rev. Doctor subscribing largely himself. As the children left the chapel, after the tea was over, they were each presented with an orange; and this is the incident depicted in our Engraving. Despair has prevailed in the parish this winter to a very serious extent, and every effort possible has been made by Dr. Allen and his collaborators to alleviate the consequent suffering. It is contemplated to give a tea to 500 working men shortly.

## ANNESLEY BAY, COAST OF ABYSSINIA.

ANNESLEY BAY, where our troops have landed for the expedition into Abyssinia, and the camp at Zulla (in its immediate neighbourhood), do not appear to be very inviting spots. One correspondent, writing on the 4th and 6th of December last, thus records his first impressions of the place:—"At last! Here we are—not again, as your modern Grimaldis will be ejaculating about the time this reaches you—but 'at last'; and, with a certain conscious pride of a duty performed, I head my letter 'Annesley Bay.' The sea, as smooth as a lake of oil, glistens in the rays of the setting sun. Not the faintest breath of air is perceptible, and the thermometer stands at 89 degrees. The harbour—or, more strictly speaking, anchorage—is crowded with transports and native boats, and a haze of intense heat partially obscures the shores south east and west of us. As far as I can judge, the country is dull and uninteresting to a degree. A low, flat, sandy plain, sparsely studded with stunted shrubs—of what nature I am unable to state accurately, probably 'baubel' or thorn bushes—lies all around; but through the mist we can just discern the outline of the mountains which are destined to be the *res arduas* of our advance, but at the same time the harbingers of a more tolerable temperature. On shore, by the aid of a telescope, I descry a cluster of about fifty white tents, a building in course of erection, which has the appearance of an embryo railway station, lines of picketed horses, mules, and camels, huge mounds of heaped-up stores and forage, and hundreds of native coolies hard at work, like bees in a hive. A pier is being constructed, but seems very far from completion. It is not a tempting country to enter, and it is almost impossible to realise the intense heat after the comparatively 'bitter' weather that we have been 'enjoying' in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea. . . . A couple of hundred yards from the shore end of the pier commence the commissariat stores, a grand scene of 'much-admired confusion.' Mountains of hay and grain, pyramids of rice, acres of stores in general, and regiments of rum and porter barrels. Then come the tents of the Land Transport Train and Madras native sappers, and the 27th N.I., or Beloochees. These extend altogether about a mile inland, and so far a tramway is laid down, which greatly facilitates operations. A mile further is 'Mulukutto,' where are the head-quarters of the pioneer force, now dwindled into very small proportions, as Colonels Merewether and Phayre have taken the main body on to Senafe. The soil is deep, fine, white sand, which rises in dense clouds on the slightest provocation, and makes a very laborious task of pedestrianism. By the dust which hangs for minutes together in the still air, in sunlit spiral columns, you can detect at any time the track and progress of any stray mule or approaching stranger. The only vegetation consists of stunted dried-up bushes, what in England we should call 'scrub.' There is not a tree or a single blade of grass in sight. The nearest water is fifteen miles off; so men and animals alike are dependent upon the large steam condenser which has been erected on the shore and on the contributions afforded by the transports in harbour, which are all hard at work condensing as long as their coals last. Water, therefore, is a very dear article, and a 'tub' is quite a dream of the long-forgotten past. Every drop consumed is produced at a cost of 3d. per gallon, and this does not include the cost of the transports, some of which are detained solely for the purpose of condensing water, and are chartered at the rate of between £200 and £300 per diem. I had expected to see lines upon lines of mules and baggage animals, instead of which I only find half a dozen emaciated camels and a few mules trotting about loose and uncared for; 1600 of the latter have gone on to Senafe. An equal number, it would appear, have either 'skedaddled' or perished. The rascally drivers, almost immediately on their arrival, actuated either by 'funk,' perversity, or discontent, 'bolted' en masse over-



ANNESLEY BAY, THE POINT OF DEBARKATION FOR THE EXPEDITION TO ABYSSINIA.

land to Massowah, the nearest port, and have never since been heard of. The poor animals, deprived of their attendants, and unable to procure food or water, naturally became imbued with a desire to forage for themselves, started off in quest, and either reached a less sterile region or perished in

the attempt; numbers also died from recklessly imbibing copious draughts of sea-water. This is the first of the disasters which always befall an expedition of this kind, and which, however detrimental, are, I believe, humanly speaking, unavoidable. The seashore is strewn with the dead and the dying

camels, mules, and oxen, and the stench is frightful; fortunately the vultures come to our aid as friendly scavengers, and the bones which they have picked by day we burn by night. These 'carnivorous' bonfires illuminate the camp and coast each night, and the odour emitted by such novel *pastilles* is more



ENTERTAINMENT TO RAGGED-SCHOOL CHILDREN AT ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, COLLIER'S RENTS, SOUTHWARK.

pungent than wholesome or agreeable. The cargoes of camels are gradually being discharged, and the poor creatures are most pitiable objects; some of them have been at sea in 'buggallows' (huge open sailing-barges), packed like herrings in a barrel, for more than three weeks without food or water; so cramped are they that they lie hours in the shallow water unable to wade ashore, and so thin that you could snap their limbs like lucifer matches."

That was in the early days of the campaign. Another letter, written on the 25th ult., gives what may be deemed a view of affairs at Annesley Bay at present:—"Never was there a country so unfavourable as this for war. The very base of operations must be supplied with water from condensers and the shipping. An accident to a delicate piece of machinery, or the breaking of the valve of a pump, causes the stock of the precious fluid to run short, and inflicts great inconvenience on the whole camp. For water here must be doled out in daily portions of limited quantity, and a reduction of the ration tells heavily on man and beast. There is no timber in the country, every beam of wood for the construction of piers or storehouses has been imported; every inch of rope has been brought from the ships; every yard of road has had to be made to allow the convoys to pass; every boat has had to be brought to the coast for the disembarkation of troops and stores, for none were found here, though a liberal supply was expected. Those that have arrived cannot approach within a hundred yards of the shore, for the water shoals slowly, as the beach is very flat. Not the least arduous of the many duties of the campaign has been the disembarkation of the cargoes of the ships, and its success is mainly due to the indefatigable exertions of Captain Tryon, R.N., who, with limited means, has achieved marvels. For the Bombay authorities, trusting to the reports of abundance of native boats, declined to accede at first to his demand for lighters and tugs, and supplied him with only one lighter. This error has now, however, been rectified, and six lighters and four tugs are daily engaged in bringing cargoes to the pier."

#### THE NEW UNIVERSITY, GLASGOW.

THIS building is one of the most important connected with the city of Glasgow. It was designed by Mr. G. G. Scott (the style being of the early part of the fourteenth century) in the summer of 1866. The treatment was designed to

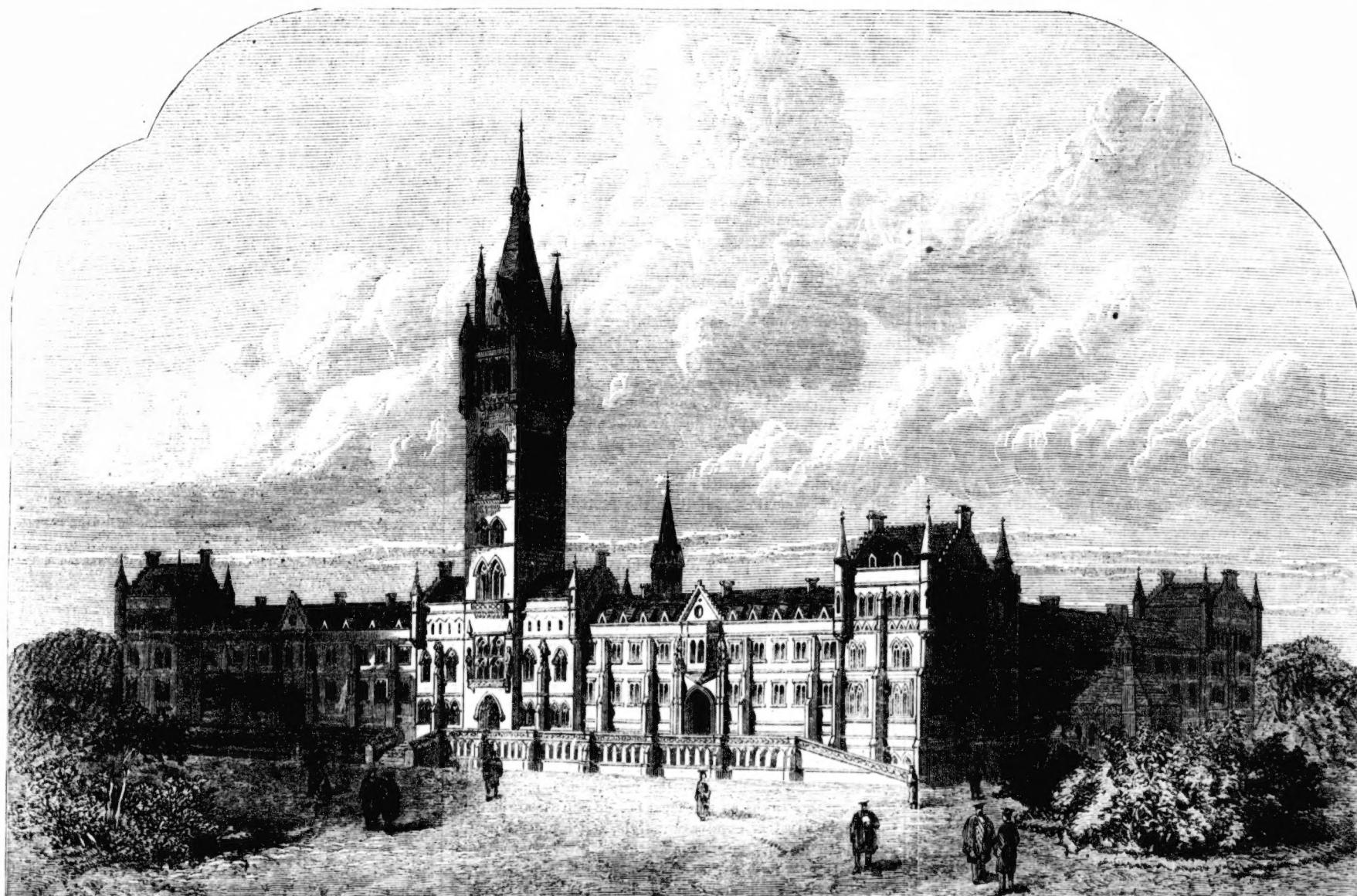
harmonise with the natural characteristics of the early Scottish domestic architecture, of which very few remains exist at the present day, except among the old baronial castles. The front consists of a centre and two wings, terminating in flanks, which project, and are elevated a story higher than the rest of the front. This portion of the building contains in the two wings and flanks the divinity, law, and most of the arts class-rooms, the examination-hall, and University offices. The great tower, 300 ft. high, rises from the centre part of the building, while gateways in two others give access to the quadrangle. The eastern side contains the lavatories and class-rooms; the northern side being appropriated to the library, museum, and reading-rooms. The centre part comprises the reading-room for students and working library; above them the library intended for the Hunterian museum, and for the valuable manuscripts and books. The main library will occupy the whole north side of the western quadrangle, and the museum that of the east triangle. The common hall will occupy the centre building, which divides the two quadrangles only. In its upper parts the ground floor will show arcades right through the whole extent, establishing a communication between the quadrangles and affording shelter for students. The great staircase leads to the hall, museum, and library. In the upper floor the apartments are so arranged that on the occasion of public assemblages they can be thrown into one suite capable of receiving thousands of people. Inside each of the quadrangles cloistered passages run round the sides, and, with the central arcade, afford means of communication between all parts of the structure, such as the professors' class-rooms, museums, laboratories, and retiring-rooms. In the library and museum ample space will be secured for present requirements and for future additions. Every convenience will be furnished; and, altogether, the new University will probably be the most beautiful structure in Glasgow.

#### THE NEW NATIONAL GALLERY REMBRANDT.

THE "Portrait of a Lady," by Rembrandt, of which we publish an Engraving, was recently purchased from the private collection of the late Sir C. Eastlake, P.R.A., and has been added to the National Gallery, in Trafalgar-square, to which, no doubt, it will attract many visitors. The picture was painted by Rembrandt at the age of twenty-seven.



"PORTRAIT OF A LADY," BY REMBRANDT, LATELY ADDED TO THE COLLECTION IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY.



THE NEW UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS, GLASGOW.—(G. G. SCOTT, ESQ., ARCHITECT.)

## Imperial Parliament.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships reassembled to-day after the recess. There was a considerable number of peers present, but the Earl of Derby, we regret to say, was absent.

## LAND TENURE IN IRELAND.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE gave notice that he intended to bring in a bill respecting the land tenure of Ireland, similar in principle to one he had introduced last Session.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

Mr. LEFEVRE gave notice that on Friday, March 4, he would call attention to the failures of negotiations on the Alabama claims with the United States of America.

## SUPREME COURTS OF SCOTLAND.

Mr. BAXTER announced that on Feb. 28 he would call attention to the dissatisfaction existing from the administration of justice in the Supreme Civil Courts of Scotland.

## THE METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET BILL.

After some remarks from Mr. Milner Gibson, the above bill was read the second time.

## BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose to introduce a bill for amending the laws relating to election petitions, and providing more effectually for the prevention of corrupt practices at Parliamentary elections. He traced the history of the law of controverted elections, and stated that in 1839 Sir R. Peel brought in a bill to improve the legislation on this subject. But this bill was repealed two years afterwards, and it was not till 1848 that the present procedure in the case of controverted elections was adopted. The present scheme had not, however, been found satisfactory, and at no time more than now were the complaints louder against the tribunal which had to decide controverted elections. It was said that the expense had not diminished, that the decisions were uncertain, and in many instances incorrect. The House had hitherto, and perhaps wisely so, determined on reserving to themselves the jurisdiction on the subject; but now the public generally, and the House itself, began to see that it would be more satisfactory if the jurisdiction were transferred to some other tribunal. This was a great feature of the measure which he introduced last Session, by which the Speaker was authorised to appoint a panel of experienced legal gentlemen to conduct these investigations on the spot. This principle of local investigation met with great favour; but questions arose as to the constitution of the tribunal, and the matter, with his entire concurrence, was referred to a Select Committee. He enumerated the various proposals which had been made, including the one that it should be decided on by a Judge in the Queen's Bench. This, too, had been found to be impracticable, as the Judges had not the time at their disposal. Since, therefore, the Government had not been able to follow out the suggestions of the Select Committee as they had intended, they had been obliged to devise another plan, which he would now submit to the House. It was that the House should select a court consisting of three members of the legal profession, who should be men of the highest character, and who should be induced to afford their services for a salary of £2000 a year each. Their duties would not be continuous, and all appeals from the decisions of revising barristers would also be referred to them. He hoped that the House would not come to a decision hastily in the matter, but would carefully consider the proposal of the Government.

After some remarks by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Sir F. Goldsmid, and Mr. Whitbread,

Sir R. COLLIER thought that, if the jurisdiction on the subject were to be taken away from the House, it should certainly not be transferred to any inferior tribunal. The Select Committee had recommended that the House should relinquish it, but only to refer it to the Judges of the Queen's Bench.

Mr. GURNEY felt great disappointment at the statement of Mr. Disraeli with respect to the future jurisdiction in the case of election matters.

Mr. SANDFORD thought that no good would be done unless commissions were sent down to inquire into the charges of bribery, and power given to charge the expenses on the counties.

Mr. R. LOWE said if it were proposed to refer election cases to the Judges they ought first to ascertain that the Judges were sufficient in numbers to deal with such additional work. The question ought to be looked at on its merits. He confessed, however, he did not quite approve of the tribunal to be established under the present bill. It appeared to him that the highest judicial tribunal ought to be resorted to in those matters.

Lord CRANBOURNE expressed a contrary opinion. It was to be remembered that the learned Judges generally had in their time identified themselves with certain political parties, and therefore should not be placed in a position whereby their impartiality might be questioned.

Sir R. PALMER also argued against imposing those duties upon the Judges.

Mr. HENLEY thought that the House of Commons should keep its jurisdiction in those matters in their own hands.

Mr. AYRTON contended that they could establish a much better tribunal in their own House than any that could be devised outside of it.

Mr. BOUVIERIE took a similar view of the question.

Sir M. BEACH supported the Government proposition.

Mr. GLADSTONE suggested that the Government were placed in a position of some difficulty in reference to this question, and thought it much less easy to propose an effectual tribunal in this matter than to make objections to the plan before the House. It appeared to him that the balance of advantages was in favour of the principle of the bill, which would effect a transfer of jurisdiction, and he was prepared to give it his best consideration.

Mr. BRIGHT said it appeared to him that the Government were less desirous of adopting measures to prevent those offences than of devising some extraordinary means of punishing them. The best remedies, in his opinion, which could be adopted for the prevention of corrupt practices at elections were larger constituencies and secret voting. He was opposed to the transfer of jurisdiction proposed, because, anticipating in a short time the abolition of small constituencies, he believed that the ballot would be insisted upon as an essential part of our electoral system, and that then there would be no need of such tribunals as those proposed.

Mr. J. LOCKE hoped that the House would maintain those rights and privileges which they already possessed.

After some further discussion, leave was given to bring in the bill.

**THE LATE SIR GEORGE SMART.**—A mural tablet, by Forsyth, has just been erected in St. Giles's Church to the memory of this venerable and distinguished musician. The design is simple, but in good taste, fulfilling the expressed wishes of the deceased, whose unostentatious habits never failed to endear him to all who had the happiness of his friendship. It bears the following inscription:—"In memory of Sir George Thomas Smart, organist and composer of her Majesty's Chapels Royal. Born May 10, 1776; died Feb. 23, 1867; aged ninety years. 'There remaineth, therefore, a rest for the people of God.'—Heb. iv. 9."

**THE ZOLLVEREIN AND OYSTER-FISHING.**—The entry of the duchy of the Elbe Holstein into the Zollverein has brought about a considerable change in an important branch of the commerce of Hamburg—namely, the trade in oysters. Hitherto all that species of shellfish from Holstein was concentrated at Hamburg, but since the duty on it has been abolished it has been sent direct to the other ports on the coast of the North Sea and the Baltic. The oyster-fisheries are now likely to acquire a great extension from the increase in consumption which will result from this opening of the trade.

**NEW LEGAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Sir Charles Jasper Selwyn, Q.C., M.P. for the University of Cambridge, has succeeded to the Lord Chief Justiceship, vacated by Sir John Rolt. The appointment was offered, in the first instance, to Sir Roundell Palmer, but declined. Sir Charles Selwyn is a brother of the Bishop of Lichfield, was first elected for Cambridge University in April, 1859, and was made Solicitor-General in 1867. It is probable that Sir Charles Selwyn will be made a Privy Councillor at the next Privy Council; and it is also understood that he will shortly be raised to the Peerage. Mr. William Baliol Brett, Q.C., and M.P. for Helston, will succeed Sir Charles Selwyn as Solicitor-General.

**EAST LONDON MUSEUM.**—On Wednesday a deputation, composed of members of Parliament, men of science, clergymen, and artisans, went to the Home Office to ask the Government to do all in its power towards the passing of the East London Museum Site Bill. The recommendation of the House of Commons in favour of the formation of district museums and their value as a means of giving the people their much-needed education in science and art were urged by the deputation. The bill is wanted because the erection of any building upon Bethnal-green, which is to be the site of the museum, is prohibited under an old deed. The Duke of Marlborough promised that the Government would give every facility to the bill in its passage through the House of Lords.

**THE EDUCATION QUESTION.**—On Wednesday afternoon a conference to discuss Archdeacon Denison's scheme for settling the education question was held at Willis's Rooms. The attendance was less numerous than was anticipated. The Archdeacon's propositions are in effect that the civil power should confine itself, in respect of conditions annexed to its grants, to the secular parts of education, leaving religious teaching in the schools to the several religious bodies, and all manner of regulations connected with it unconditionally free to the managers of each school; also that those who prefer a purely secular school shall be entitled to the same assistance from the civil power as those who prefer a school of religious education. He contends for "the universal application of the principle of unconditional freedom." The resolutions in which these views were embodied were carried almost unanimously.

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## TRADES MEN VERSUS CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

PARLIAMENT has reassembled; a circumstance for which, we fancy, tradesmen in general and grocers in particular will be profoundly grateful, for it will to some extent deliver them from inconvenient inquiries by the newspapers into prevailing modes of doing business as well as from the onslaughts of that numerous and pestilent class of correspondents whose special mission seems to be ventilating social abuses. Editors will not be able, for a few months at least, to devote column after column to letters from "Paterfamilias," "Providus," "Economicus," and so forth, exposing the misdeeds and extortions of bakers, butchers, grocers, and other tradesmen.

And certainly these classes have been "catching it hot and hot" lately. First the bakers were hauled over the coals; but that is a process to which the "masters of the rolls" have been subjected so long and so often that they must be pretty well inured to it by this time. Then the butchers and their charges were assailed; and certainly evidence was adduced to warrant a verdict of guilty being recorded, if not on all the counts libelled, at least on a good many of them. The butchers were convicted of charging more to their customers for meat than the wholesale price of the article warranted; and they generally confessed the justice of the impeachment by making, or affecting to make, a reduction in their retail scale of prices.

The grocers are now the theme; and against them, too, a pretty strong case has been made out. A comparison of retail grocers' bills—West-End grocers, that is, though perhaps their brethren in other quarters are equally vulnerable to attack—and City merchants' price-lists shows a swinging margin for profit between the wholesale and retail cost of most articles enumerated. And this comparison would probably be a perfectly just way of viewing the question, did not a variety of circumstances come into play which have an influence in balancing the account. Did housekeepers pay cash for their goods, did they carry their orders and their money to the shops themselves, did they look out for the best and cheapest markets, instead of causing the tradesman or his servants to call once for the order, again with the goods, and many times for the money, they would, we are persuaded, have less occasion to grumble at the price charged for commodities.

Indeed, the credit system itself opens the door to innumerable abuses. The tradesman must not only get a profit on the capital he embarks in his business and remuneration for his own services in conducting it; he must not only pay servants, rent, taxes, and so on; but he must charge such prices as will cover expenses of bookkeeping and interest for money lying out, and insure himself against bad debts. And, as those who do pay must make good the defalcations of those who don't, of course prices are enhanced all round—to cash buyers, good debtors, and non-payers alike.

A universal system of cash payments would obviate all this, and at the same time annihilate the pretences under which tradesmen make exorbitant charges, as, we doubt not, is in many instances done. It is certainly hard that householders who pay cash should have to bear the burden of those who take credit, and even of those who do not pay at all. But it is difficult to see how this can be avoided so long as credit-giving continues, and people deal at shops where the cash and credit systems are combined; for it would be invidious for a tradesman to sell his goods on a differential scale—one rate for cash buyers and another for credit-takers. These considerations may not altogether justify the charges made by grocers and other tradesmen, but they at all events mitigate the enormity of the offences alleged against them. For the rest, and admitting that tradesmen's profits are often very large, it must not be forgotten that in these times most people who can are inclined to live in a rather extravagant style, and are consequently anxious to obtain large returns for their capital and exertions; and it is not quite reasonable to expect shopkeepers to be exceptions to the general though foolish rule. A universal social reform is needed; and if each Paterfamilias, whatever his position in life, would begin with himself and his own household, no doubt traders of all sorts would "follow suit."

In fact, the cure for the mischief about which such loud and reiterated complaints are made lies with consumers themselves. They have only to do their own work, and avoid those establishments the customers of which make the tradesman do theirs for them. And this is precisely the system practised at the co-operative stores which are now coming so much into vogue. These stores give no credit; therefore they suffer no losses. They do not canvass for orders, and they don't undertake to deliver the goods; therefore they incur no expense in carts and servants going from house to house among their customers. They book no debts; therefore they have no books and bookkeepers to pay for. Their customers are required to make out their own invoices; therefore the time of the store-attendants can all be devoted to executing the orders delivered to them in writing, and an immense quantity of business can thus be got through by comparatively few hands. Then the members of co-operative associations do not look for large profits. They only charge such percentages on first costs as will cover working expenses, finding their advantage in the reduced price of the goods they consume. These are the advantages enjoyed by co-operative stores; but the system need not be—and, indeed, is not—exclusively characteristic of co-operative associations. Many private traders adopt the same or similar rules of business, and there is no reason why all should not. At all events, consumers need not purchase at establishments where a different system obtains.

Individual traders have advantages over associations that cannot be taken from them. If a business can be made to pay when conducted by hired employés who have no great personal interest in the prosperity of the concern, superintended by committees who have no special knowledge of the trade and who have other avocations to attend to, it stands to reason that affairs would go on still better under the guidance of one intelligent, experienced head, whose personal interest is involved, and, consequently, whose entire attention would be given to the work. And this is precisely the lesson taught by past experience. Co-operation is no new idea; though it is now, perhaps, worked on a more extensive scale than was ever attempted before. It has been tried again and again; and it has always succeeded so long as zealous committee-men and trustworthy managers could be got to work the system. But it has always failed when these were lacking, as has generally been found to be the case after a time. Whether different and happier results will attend the present co-operative movement remains to be seen. We hope sincerely that such will be the case. But the point, nevertheless, is open to doubt; and the wisest course for consumers to pursue is to reform their own ways and insist upon their tradesmen reforming theirs: to accept no "tick" and to deal at no shops where "tick" is given; to buy in the cheapest and best markets; to give their orders, check bills, and pay money themselves, and dispense with "go-betweens" of all sorts. By adopting this plan, a more healthy system of doing business would speedily be introduced, whether co-operative stores succeed or not. But, so long as people are too lazy, or too proud, or too stupid to attend to their own affairs, they will continue to be fleeced: and serve them right too.

## HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE BOYS OF LONDON.

MR. WILLIAMS, the indefatigable superintendent of the Refuge for Destitute Boys in Great Queen's-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, has issued the subjoined appeal for eighty thousand shillings on behalf of the institution—an appeal which we heartily recommend to the attention and liberality of our readers:—

To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

Sir,—The work undertaken by the committee of this refuge for the poor boys and girls of London and the provinces is a great and important one not only with reference to the children themselves, but for the country at large; for by our refuges we are saving from ruin and training for useful service a large number of poor boys and girls who would, but for this institution, become a curse and an expense to the nation. Last year we gathered from the streets into the refuge no less than 246 boys.

I need not enlarge on the advantages accruing to the public as well as to the boys themselves, in so large a number being rescued from misery and vice, instead of being allowed to drift into the criminal or dangerous class. The advantages are apparent to anyone who will give the subject a moment's thought. At the present time we have 163 boys on board the Chichester, being educated and trained for the Royal Navy and merchant service; 155 boys in this refuge; and nearly a hundred inmates in the two refuges for girls.

With a view of further converting the "waste" going on in the "human material" and turning it to useful labour, the committee have purchased a farm, at Bisley, near Woking, in Surrey, to which they purpose transferring the young and weakly boys from the London Refuge, so that they may be trained to look after cows and pigs, grow vegetables, till the land, &c., and thus be fitted for service at home or in the colonies.

This effort is absolutely necessary, as we have now in the refuge nearly 150 boys more than we have proper accommodation for.

We are, therefore, driven to this extremity, either to enlarge our operations or to send the poor boys adrift as they apply for admission; sixty-eight boys were admitted in December, forty-eight last month, and still they come begging to be received. The committee have therefore determined to enlarge their work, and take in another 100 boys, so as to have 400 altogether under their care—viz., 200 on the ship, 100 in this refuge, and 100 in the farm school.

Before, however, the whole of the hundred boys can be received in the country home, suitable buildings—consisting of dormitories, school-rooms, workshops, &c.—must be erected. These will cost about £4000. It is towards this sum I now ask that you will allow me to make an appeal in your Paper—an appeal which, I firmly believe, if you will but allow to appear, will produce the amount required for the new buildings.

If only some of your numerous readers who have not hitherto contributed to our funds will deny themselves some luxury for a day or two, and send us one shilling's worth of postage-stamps each, there is no doubt that in less than a week sufficient funds will be raised to pay for the new buildings for rescuing an additional hundred poor boys from misery, vice, and crime.

Will you kindly permit me to ask the readers of your Paper who have not hitherto aided our poor boys to send, at once, one shilling's worth of stamps towards the funds required for the new buildings?—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. WILLIAMS, Secretary.  
8, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, W.C., Feb. 7, 1868.

A NEW WAY OF POPPING THE QUESTION.—The following advertisement, which at least possesses the merit of plain speaking, appears in a Glasgow newspaper:—"Matrimony.—I beg to intimate that I want a respectable woman to become my wife. She must have a good character and be a good writer; not less than thirty and not more than forty years of age. Having been ill-used by a few of the fair sex, I now wish to settle down in life. This is the last time any woman will have this offer—if they don't apply now they will lose the chance. Having published three volumes of my life, and having travelled through the three kingdoms and a part of the United States and Canada, there is no doubt but I will make a very interesting husband. Apply by letter, inclosing carte-de-visite, or personally, to—"

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

A WRITER in the *Morning Star* of Monday says of Sir Charles Selwyn:—"He was a leader of the Rolls Court, and the silent representative of Cambridge University." This writer is clearly not a gallery man, or he would never have fallen into the mistake of calling Sir Charles a silent representative. The truth is, he was a frequent speaker. On some topics—on the site of the law courts, for example—he was a downright bore. And he was a very voluminous speaker, too. That is the precise word. "Voluminous" means consisting of many coils; and Sir Charles's speaking was exactly like unfolding coils of rope out of the hold of a barge. You have most likely watched the process, and, as you watched, wondered when it would come to an end; till at length you got impatient, and were ready to cry out, with Macbeth, "What! will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?" Well, this has been my feeling whilst listening to Sir Charles Selwyn, or rather, say watching; for I never really listened to him, nor do I believe that anybody ever did unless he was obliged to do so. On his recent appointment to a lord justiceship of appeal I offer no opinion, for I am no lawyer, and therefore no judge. But as a member of Parliament he was thought to be a mere voluminous, fluent talker, whom nobody listened to, except the reporters in the gallery, and they not very closely, if we may judge of the reports which they gave of his long-winded harangues. I am told by lawyers that the office to which Sir Charles is appointed is a very important one; and I suppose it is, as it is a judgeship in a court of appeal, and the salary is £6000 a year. And here let me notice the scandalous fact that all our Judges are now appointed not because they are fit for the office, but because they are political partisans of the Government. If Sir Charles Selwyn had not been a political partisan of the Government, he would not have been selected for this important post. True, the Government offered it to Sir Roundell Palmer. But then everybody knew that he would not take it. He aspires to loftier heights—the woolsack and a peerage—all which he is sure to get and deserves to have. Men say that he is now one of our greatest lawyers; but of this I am no judge. But the much of him I can say—he is certainly one of the most eloquent and charming exponents of the law that I ever listened to. Speeches on the law are not, as a rule, attractive; but Sir Roundell's exhibitions are clear as light itself, and musical as Apollo's lute.

This is to be an Irish Session—at least, so the prophets say; and, in prospect of it, every Irishman will come to town "full to the bung" of Irish wrongs, grievances, and their remedies. We are not, though, to do much law-making, as everybody admits, but to discuss, elucidate, and in this way to prepare to do something. When the reformed Parliament shall have assembled, think then what we shall have to endure, when 105 Irishmen are up, all, more or less, to talk, but to do nothing. But, as the old Puritans used to say, "judgment is tempered with mercy." Vincent Scully will not be here; for in 1865 the ungrateful county of Cork dropped Vincent—left him at the bottom of the poll by more than 4000 votes. Nor shall we have that brilliant oratorical pyrotechnist Whiteside; for his Parliamentary oratory is for ever extinguished—extinguished by a Judge's wig. That dull, steady, persevering, never-flagging old roaster John George has also mounted the bench; whilst our troublesome friend Pope Hennessy has left his country for his country's good, and is now Governor of Labuan, the place which Sir James Brooke conquered by his diplomacy and annexed to the British Crown. What a sweep there has been of Irish talkers within the last two or three years! But we have still a few creditable specimens of Hibernian orators. There is Sir John Gray, the member for Kilkenny city, and proprietor and editor of the *Freeman's Journal*. Sir John, though, I suspect, is not true Hibernian—not of the old race. He is not a Roman Catholic, and this is strong evidence that he is not genuine Irish. Moreover, he lacks some of the qualities of the true Celt. He can talk fluently, and as long as a Scully, were he so minded; but there is no humour—no sparkle in his speeches. They are very long, but they are apt to degenerate into dulness. Sir John is probably a descendant from some English family of the Pale. Then we have Mr. O'Beirne, the member for Cashel. That name is clearly Irish, and Mr. O'Beirne has the gift of eloquence common to all Irishmen; but he is temperate in the use of it, and, moreover, is more cosmopolitan than Irishmen usually are. He can discourse about ships, commerce, law; and discourse intelligently, too. I know nothing of Mr. O'Beirne's antecedents, but he always seems to me to be an Irishman who has travelled, or, at all events, lived a good deal out of Ireland, and got his Hibernian peculiarities rubbed off. However this may be, he is clearly a man of varied knowledge and considerable speaking powers, and knows how to use them temperately, and therefore effectively. I must not, though, call the roll of Irish talkers. Time would fail to do more than name Miles O'Reilly, once Major in the Pope's army, and, what is more to the purpose here, an eloquent, sensible, moderate man; Sir Colman O'Loughlin, called "Bill O'Loughlin," because he brings in so many bills; our old friend Sir Patrick O'Brien, whose sentences are in such a hurry to get free that they often tumble out wrong end foremost. In short, though we have lost Scully, and Whiteside, and Pope Hennessy, we have still plenty of Irish talking power in the House, and to spare, for this Irish Session.

Apropos to this there comes ominously a rumour that Gladstone is to move a resolution touching the Irish Church. This is, though, hardly putting it right, as "to move" would seem to mean that there has been some resolution come to at a meeting of the foremost members of the Liberal party at which it was resolved that the course should be taken, because there has been no such meeting. There may have been consultations held by two or three ex-Ministers. I thought I discerned some hint of such consultations in Mr. Cardwell's speech at Oxford. An ex-official bird whistled a few notes to this effect in my ear a few weeks ago; and such consultations resulting in such determination may have taken place, but no meeting, properly so called, of Liberals has been held; and if it be true that Gladstone means, without consultation had with his party, to introduce a formal resolution condemnatory of the Irish Church, he means to commit another grave mistake, and he will again find himself in a minority, covered with the odium of failure, whilst his opponents will be more firmly established in office.

There was a characteristic article in the *Times* this week upon the retirement of Lord Derby. It was at once hortatory and prophetic. It warned the noble Lord that he ought to retire, and it, though somewhat dimly, foreshadowed his retirement. If he should retire the *Times* will, with certain people, gain credit for its power or its foresight, though really it will deserve credit for neither. We need no ghost to foretell that Lord Derby, if his ill-health continue, must retire; but that retirement will not be hastened a day by anything that the *Times* can write. All will depend upon the noble Earl's health. If he can hold his place he will; for it is a critical juncture, and, so long as he can hold out, he will not by retirement hazard the safety of the Conservative Government. Of course, with the prospect of Lord Derby's retirement there came speculation about his successor. Two noblemen have been prominently mentioned—to wit—Lord Stanley and the Duke of Richmond. Lord Stanley is obviously the likeliest man; but then he must go to the Lords; for D'Israeli must be leader of the Lower House. The Duke of Richmond is not much known, because he is not a talker; but he is a man of respectable abilities and excellent character. He was long in the House of Commons as Earl of March, and was thought to be a very good chairman of Committees. But, surely, he has never thought of aspiring to the premiership of England.

The following note speaks for itself:—

To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

Sir,—Your contributor, "The Lounger," is mistaken in supposing that he is the first to detect the original of Waller's and Byron's famous simile of the wounded eagle in *Æschylus*. The plagiarism, if plagiarism it be, was pointed out by a writer in *Chamber's Edinburgh Journal* for Nov. 6, 1847, page 291, and I dare say others had preceded him in the discovery.

Feb. 1, 1868.  
Your obedient servant, C. T. B.

Some butchers seem mightily offended by the remarks I made last week respecting the opposition of the trade to the riverside cattle-market and slaughter-houses bill—or whatever be the exact

title of the measure. I have received several letters of remonstrance, with charges of misunderstanding, misrepresenting, and so forth. Well, I can only say that I took the statement of opinion by the butchers as propounded by their mouthpieces, and, on again referring to the proceedings of the butchers' meeting, I cannot perceive where I have either misunderstood or misrepresented what was said. The men of the block and cleaver are strongly conservative; they dislike change in their mode of doing business, and they cannot perceive in what respect anyone is injured by the existing state of things. That is likely enough; butchers are not more bright in their intellect than other people; and few men care to be compelled to abandon the ways of doing things to which they are accustomed. Besides, no one is so hard of conversion as he who does not want to be convinced. And that seems to be the case with my friends the butchers. But a great revolution in the mode of managing the meat trade is imminent, and the butchers will do well to be prepared, and accommodate themselves to circumstances when the time comes. Private slaughter-houses in the midst of large towns cannot be tolerated much longer; and dead-meat markets are sure ere long to supersede those for live stock intended for the knife. I dare say the butchers understand this; and perhaps they see also that when that takes place the exclusiveness of the trade will be broken up. What has mainly contributed to maintain the distinctiveness of the butchers' business is the necessity, as matters are at present managed, of possessing a place, appliances, and skill for slaughtering. But when the carcass, and not the live animal, is brought to market, any shopkeeper—the dairyman, the grocer, the porkman, the cheesemonger, the greengrocer—may go to the dead-meat market and buy such joints as he may be able to dispose of among his ordinary customers; and then the butcher's special occupation would be gone, and with it such large profits as he has been making recently. In short, an era of real free trade in meat will be inaugurated. Does any light break in now upon the sources of the butchers' opposition to dead-meat markets and extramural slaughter-houses?

## THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

## THE MAGAZINES.

I take blame, and almost shame, to myself for having forgotten in noticing last month's *Contemporary* to correct the writer of the excellent paper on Rome at the close of the year in what he said of Signor Mazzini: the usual thing, Mr. Editor—that Signor Mazzini conspired in safety, and used at the peril of others the dagger he dared not wield himself. This month Mr. C. E. Maurice comes forward in the *Contemporary* to remind the world of the part Signor Mazzini played in the Roman Republic of 1848-9; of the fact that he has countless times risked his own life in the Italian cause, and is even now in Italy under sentence of death. That Signor Mazzini carried the standard at Novara, and that he has been actually under fire, were facts which, along with some others, were known to me indirectly, though certainly; while I have direct personal knowledge of the disinterestedness and nobility of Signor Mazzini. As he loves the truth, he would not be pleased that anyone should pretend that he had the same kind of bravery as Garibaldi, but that is nothing, for some of the greatest of soldiers have fainted on first going into action; but brave he is, and good he is, and I was gravely wrong in forgetting to make at once a correction which was in my power.

The *Pall Mall* cannot understand Mr. Gladstone's outrageous praise of Scott's version of the "Dies Irae." No more can I. On the face of them, the words, as reported, convey the impression that Mr. Gladstone believed the "version" to be an original poem; but, even rejecting this idea as untenable, enough remains to surprise one. If one set of verses like these, even supposing them to be wholly original, is enough to stamp a man's name with greatness, Sternhold and Hopkins may be called great, since it is admitted that the verses beginning

The Lord descended from above,  
and the verses ending

Lord, let Thy mercy come,  
are sublime and affecting. In any case, I find Mr. Gladstone unintelligible.

The new comer this month is the *Mask*, a "kinder-sorter" Fine-Art *Charivari*. The first number contains some gay, pleasant literature; some agreeable music (to words which seem, in one verse at least, expressly constructed to remind us that a certain rite is a communion only); and some striking portraits, evidently by the pencil to which we have so often been debtors for characteristic likenesses of distinguished men in *Fun*. The same pencil has the great gift of being able to invent pretty faces—not insipid.

*Chamber's Journal*, an old friend, contains, among other very interesting matter, a paper about Reporters; but I can tell the writer of it a better story than he seems to know. His anecdote about "pauper" and "partner" is not true, though it is often repeated; but I know a shorthand writer (oh, breathe not his name; let him write in the shade!) who inserted into a speech, just for fun, a Spanish proverb, a couplet from Robert Browning, and a quotation from "Tristram Shandy," and never heard a word of complaint about it. Of course he took care to make these ornaments relevant; but the simple fact is, they were "accepted" as if the speaker had employed them.

In *London Society* the "Thumbnail Studies" are the work of a real humourist. Mr. Robert Buchanan's "London Lyrics" are, of course, attractive; the first of the series being the most original. But the best thing in this number of *London Society* is Mr. J. G. Thompson's illustration to the Westminster Play, entitled "The Ladies Trying to Understand the Latin."

In *Tinsley's* there is plenty of serious matter which is well worth reading, in addition to the stories; but the "Flâneur" himself supplies by far the most interesting part of the prose. He tells a capital anecdote of an actor at the Rochester Theatre whom he saw one day (when he was in the company of Mr. Dickens) stride on in buff boots before the footlights, stalk about, exclaim "I will return anon," and then disappear. The man had forgotten his part, and, having got the needed help from the prompter, returned to the stage. The "Valentine" is one of the most charming poems of its order I have ever seen; but, like the "Gardener's Daughter" and its congeners, it raises larger questions than I can discuss here. Meanwhile, it is, as I have said, charming.

Once a Week, in the form of a monthly part, shows so well that one is inclined to say, as of the *Fortnightly*, that its title is the worst fault it has—in other words, that literature of this kind shows best in mass.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The programme has been changed at the PRINCESS'S, and "The Octo-roon" and "Arrah-na-Pogue" are now played instead of "The Colleen Bawn" and "The Streets of London." But it is "The Octo-roon" with a difference. Since first produced at the Adelphi, Mr. Boucicault has rewritten and recast the piece. It is now presented in three acts, and the author himself plays the Comanche Indian, Wahnotee, with great power and effect. Mrs. Boucicault is still Zoe, the Octo-roon girl, and she acts with the same depth of feeling, delicacy, and tenderness I had the pleasure of praising more than five years ago. Mr. George Vining assumes the character of the villainous overseer, M'Cosky; and Mr. John S. Clarke, the American actor, who recently made success at the St. James's, personates Salem Scudder. Mr. Dan Leeson enacts the faithful old slave Pete, in which part he receives the frequent and deserved plaudits of the audience; and Miss Rachel Sanger, as little Paul, the quadroon boy, who is murdered by M'Cosky, awakes both the serious and risible sympathies of the public. The rest of the cast stands thus:—George Peyton, Mr. G. F. Neville; Mr. Sunnyside, Mr. Maclean; Captain Ratty, Mr. Shore; Colonel Poindexter, Mr. Forrester; Thibodeaux, Miss Emma Barnett; Mrs. Peyton, Miss Stafford; and Dora, the impulsive Southern belle, Miss Henrietta Simms, who has been expressly engaged for the run of the piece. The few folks who really care for good acting—the raw

material ungarnished by the best situations and prepared replies—will do well to keep their ears open to Mr. Forrester as Poindexter, colonel and auctioneer (the two professions are compatible in the Land of Freedom, where a General may, if he likes, be a bum-bailiff, and "seize" the furniture of the officers under his own command). The whole piece is well and vigorously acted; and, painful though the subject of slavery be when portrayed upon the stage, at the fall of the curtain the audience were wrought to a high pitch of enthusiasm. The scenery, which at the Adelphi was the reverse of picturesque and effective, at the Princess's is from the brush of Mr. F. Lloyds, and is in every respect worthy of that gentleman's fame. The burning of the Mississippi steamer, the cane brake, and the red-cedar swamp, are among the best efforts of a very clever "sensation" scenic artist. "Arrah-na-Pogue," played for the first time as an afterpiece, concludes the evening's entertainment; and to any lady or gentleman seeking a three-hours' "thrill," the auditorium of the Princess's Theatre may be safely recommended.

Permit me to correct an error which seems to be "going about" in theatrical and theatre-going circles. The locality of Mr. Robertson's new comedy of "Play," which is to be produced this evening, is not "Baden-Baden." I say this on authority. If a playwright laid the scene of his piece at a town called "Shrimpton-super-Mare," it might mean Brighton, or Hastings, or Scarborough, or neither of those fashionable watering-places. So with "Play." Its incidents might occur at Baden, Ems, Wiesbaden, Homburg, Morocco, or Spain; but no particular place on the gambling-map is intended. So friends fresh from Baden will please take this as an intimation.

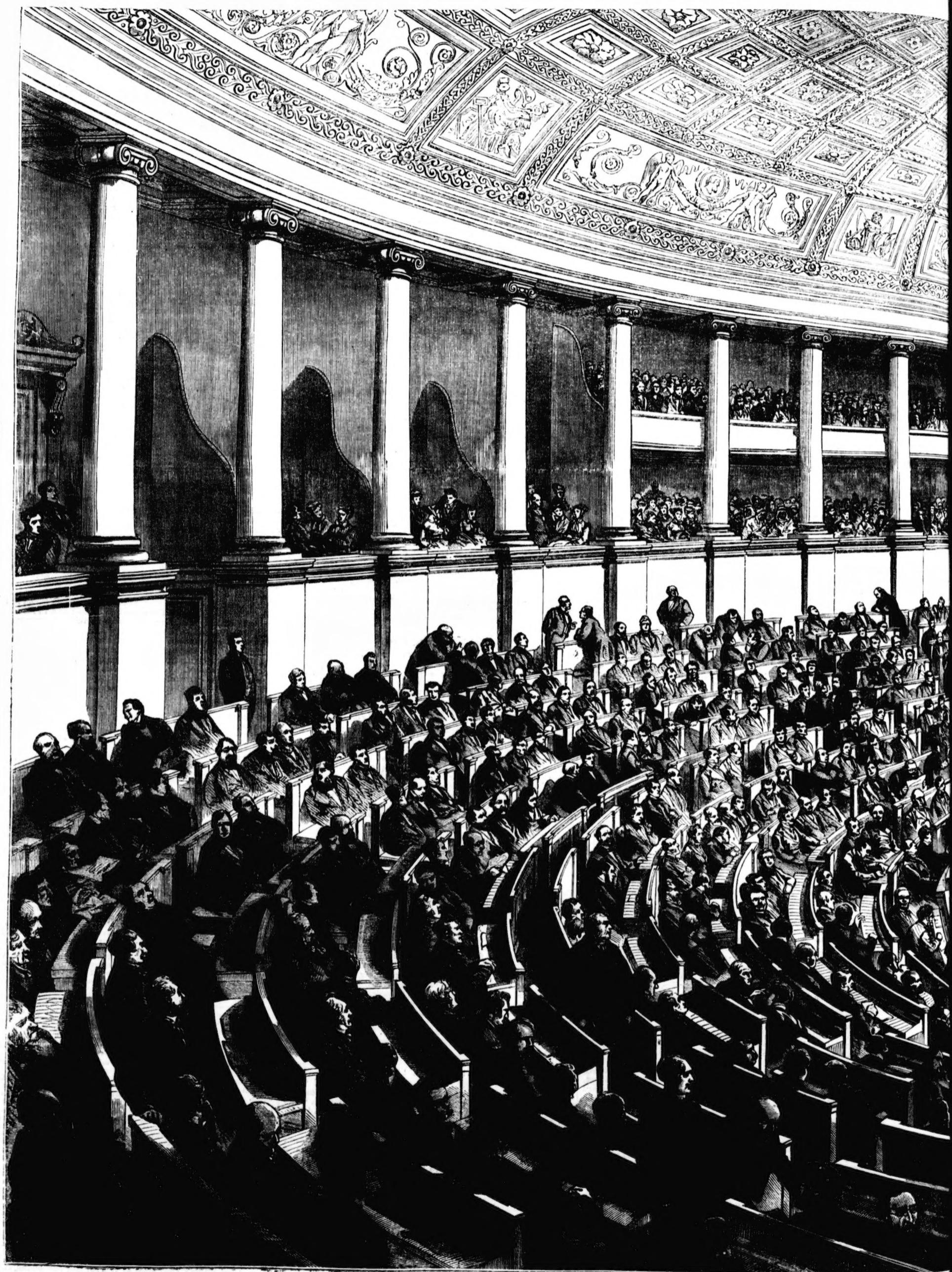
I have contrived to take a short run over to Paris during the theatrical hull between the revival of "The Octo-roon" and the production of Mr. Robertson's new comedy at the Prince of Wales's. I have only assisted as yet at the performance of "Robinson Crusoe" and of the "Revue—1867" at the PORTE ST. MARTIN. The "Revue" is a fair specimen of its class; the hits at the exhibition, the "Grande Duchesse," the new opera-house, ladies' dresses, and other popular objects of satire, are received with unbounded satisfaction. The dialogue is perhaps about as dazzling as that of an ordinary English pantomime; but, as it deals more freely with topics of the day than our pantomime openings usually do, it receives a larger share of applause. The scenery is good, and the dresses—what there is of them—magnificent. I paid considerable attention to Mdle. Silly's parody of the "Grande Duchesse" which excited such a storm of indignation on the first night of its performance, but I was at a loss to discover anything to justify the popular execration with which it was received. Perhaps it has been toned down since then. In the course of the piece Mdle. Theresa sings two bad comic songs of the ordinary Café Chantant description, and Darcier sings two sentimental ballads with taste and effect. The piece is in five disjointed acts, containing twenty-five scenes, and playing five hours and a quarter. The ballets are good.

"Robinson Crusoe" is not likely to rival the success of the "Grand Duchesse." I have, perhaps, no right to express an opinion on its music, but its effect on me, as a non-musical auditor, was not particularly pleasing. There is little or nothing to "hum" in it, and consequently I don't think it can ever become popular. The absence of a chorus in the first and second acts seems to me to be a defect; the songs are long and dreadfully monotonous. There is lively music in the last two acts, notably Jim-Cocks's (!) song in the third act, and Friday's song of vengeance in the fourth. The story is wildly improbable without being at all funny. The first act shows Robinson Crusoe at his father's house, near Bristol; and the incident of Sir William Crusoe, Lady Crusoe, their son, niece, and servants dancing a breakdown, or "gigue," after family tea may be quoted as a specimen of the librettists' familiarity with British customs. Crusoe leaves his father, mother, and pretty cousin Edwige (!) whom he loves, and is wrecked on an island in the neighbourhood of Brazil. The second act shows him in his island home with Friday. The third act informs us that his lovely cousin has set out on a voyage of discovery, in white muslin dress with short sleeves, and that she has fallen into the hands of a tribe of Indians whose chief turns out to be an old friend of the family, one Jim-Cocks. Jim-Cocks, through Friday's agency, eventually restores her to her lover Crusoe. A frigate appears off the coast, and Crusoe and his beautiful cousin are rescued. The piece appears to owe its chief attraction to the charming *espionerie* of Mdle. Galle-Marie as Friday.

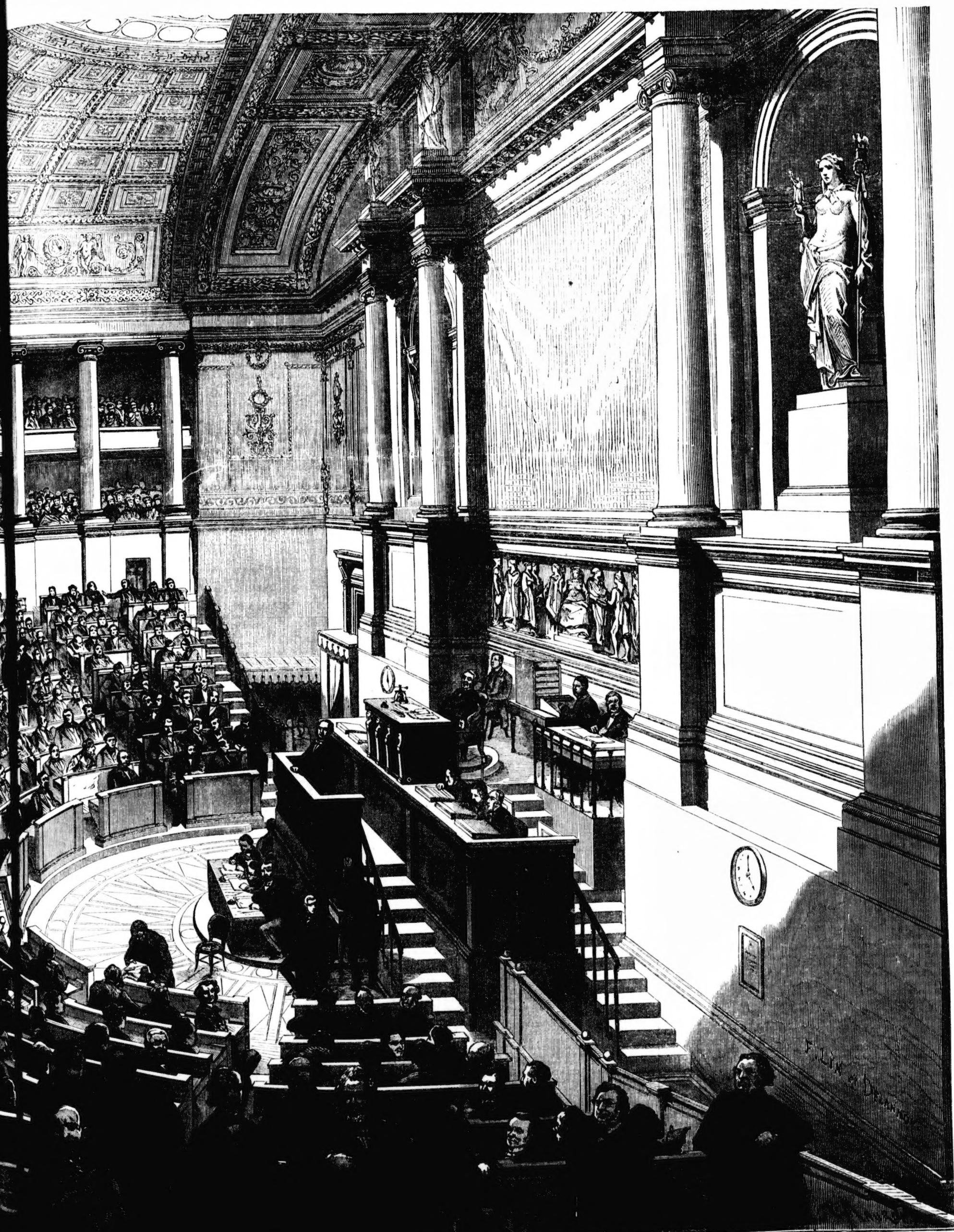
MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.—The *New York Tribune* publishes a letter from Mr. Goldwin Smith, in which that gentleman states the reasons of his going to America. He says:—"It is not by me that my private intentions were made public; but, as they have become public, and as certain journals which pounced rather eagerly on the report gave a somewhat inaccurate version of it, I am much obliged to you for affording me an opportunity of stating the truth. I am going to devote myself to the study, and, if after due study I shall probably take up my abode in the United States in the course of the summer. At what place must depend partly on the exigencies of my study. I must be where there are books and records, and where I can obtain permission to use them. My undertaking necessarily implies a prolonged residence in the country where it must be carried on. But I am not going to seek naturalisation in America, or to cast off my allegiance to my own Sovereign and my native land. I shall be a candidate for no citizenship in America but that of the republic of letters. In the present state of English affairs I can imagine, though I do not anticipate, the occurrence of a crisis which will render it incumbent on the honour of every Englishman to share, though he might be unable to influence, the destinies of his country."

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, CITY-ROAD, E.C.—Many may not be aware that the Royal Hospital which was founded by his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, A.D. 1814, rebuilt 1863, has been labouring in the midst of London for more than half a century, and that it was first embodied the laudable idea of devoting a special institution to the study and treatment of diseases of the chest. To check these diseases in their incipient stage, to deprive chronic cases of their deadly character, and to alleviate pain when recovery is hopeless, are objects which must strongly recommend themselves to all who sympathise with sorrow and suffering. The claims of the Royal Hospital to the support of the benevolent may be permitted to rest on its long-sustained and successful efforts to carry out these objects. Since its foundation it has been the means of relieving an incalculable amount of suffering, and its sphere of usefulness has only been limited by the extent of funds placed at its disposal. The other excellent hospitals for diseases of the chest at Brompton and Victoria Park have in some measure diverted the current of beneficence from the Royal Hospital; but if the number of applications for relief be any criterion of the value of a charity, this hospital well maintains its character in public estimation; for the eagerness manifested by the afflicted poor to obtain admission almost exceeds belief. Its slender resources are now taxed to the utmost. Hence an appeal has been made for further donations and subscriptions—an appeal which the council trust will meet with a liberal response.

EAST-END DISTRESS.—On Monday the united executive committee of the Central Relief Association held a meeting at the Mansion House. The total of the contributions received is £2190. Miss Coutts has sent £500, Baron Rothschild, £100. Grants were made to various local committees in union. One of these committees last week spent £350 in giving 14,000 persons sixpence apiece! In the Bethnal-green district it was stated there are about 120,000 people suffering mainly from chronic poverty. But exceptional distress arising from the temporary stagnation of trade, and not chronic poverty, is what the committee wish to relieve, and the above wholesale distribution of sixpences was objected to because of its indiscriminate character. The shipbuilding artisans of the Isle of Dogs have not yet been able to make up their minds to any reduction in their demands, and have consequently lost the chance of bringing back to the Thames some of the shipbuilding business which is now being transferred so completely to the northern ports. Mr. Bullivant undertook to get orders for a couple of iron ships at £5 a ton; but the men would not answer at once, and while they were shilly-shallying, the shipowner, who could not afford to lose time, sent his commission to the builders in the north. Could there be a stronger illustration of the blind perversity of the unionists than this? It is quite clear, from Mr. Bullivant's letter, that iron and wood of the kinds required for shipbuilding can be procured quite cheaply on the Thames as on the Clyde—indeed, in some instances, more cheaply; the difference in the price of coal is only some 7s. per ton in favour of the Scotch yards, or on a ship of 1000 tons about 1s. per registered ton. It is the question of wages which drives business away from the Thames, and even here the shipwrights seem to be sacrificing themselves for a very doubtful and shadowy gain, since at 7s. a day they have seldom, even in good times, had more than four days' work a week, while their brethren on the Clyde get six days at 5s.



THE FRENCH LEGISLATURE



## THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER.

We have recently published some engravings illustrative of the accommodation provided for the members of the French Parliament, and we now complete the series by giving a view of the Legislative Chamber while in Session. As most persons are aware, the French conduct their Parliamentary debates in a different fashion from that which obtains at Westminster. The members do not address the Chamber from their usual places, as with us; but each speaker, having first entered his name on the roll of intending debaters, is called up in his turn, and delivers his oration from a tribune in front of the President's chair. The addressees, too, are frequently read from previously-prepared manuscripts, the English system of extemporaneous debate not being generally in vogue among our neighbours. This practice of reading written essays, though it may give scope for greater polish and brilliancy, and impart a certain logical coherence to an address, deprives the speeches of that lifelike character with which immediately answering an opponent's arguments imbues the discussions of our own Parliament, and which, indeed, constitutes debate in the proper sense of the term. Of course, many French Parliamentary orators—such as M. Rouher, M. Jules Favre, M. Berryer, and others—often speak extemporaneously; but we believe that written orations are the fashion with the majority of the members of both Chambers.

Great changes have recently been made in the system of conducting business, as well as in the arrangement of parties in the French Chambers: indeed, parties can scarcely be said to exist now, for the Opposition is so small in numbers, however powerful in intellect, as to be nearly insignificant. In the old times of Parliamentary government in France, and even in the stormy days of the Constituent Assembly and Convention of the first Revolution, the members of the Chamber were divided into distinct parties. There were the Right, or adherents of those in power; the Left, or regular Opposition; the Centre (classified, again, as Right Centre and Left Centre), composed of deputies who inclined more or less to one or other of the two great parties of "ins" and "outs," but who were not reckoned as invariable adherents of either—something, in fact, like the "gentlemen below the gangway," or independent members of our House of Commons; and, finally, there was "The Mountain" or extreme politicians, who occupied the elevated benches at the back of the hall, and who from that circumstance obtained their distinctive appellation. All these parties have now, however, disappeared; and the Chambers are at present composed of an overwhelming majority of supporters of Government, and a small, but, as we have said, talented and vigorous Opposition.

Considerable restriction, too, is imposed on the freedom of debate. A member does not, as with us, merely give notice of his intention to introduce a bill, bring on a motion, or ask a question, and then proceed to do so in due course. Private members in France cannot initiate legislation at all, and when it is desired to discuss a question, the intended motion or "interpellation" must first be submitted to the President; if not deemed objectionable by that functionary (who, by-the-by, is appointed by the Emperor, not elected by the Deputies), it is passed on to the bureaux or committees; and, if approved by a majority of these tribunals, the member is permitted to "develop" the subject; but not till all these formalities have been complied with can discussion take place. Measures introduced by the Government are of course open to debate, both as to principles and details; but from these hints it will be seen that Parliamentary affairs are managed in a very different way in France from what they are with us.

## PROFESSOR MASSON ON "OLD ENGLISH POETRY."

On Tuesday night Professor Masson delivered a lecture on "Old English Poetry" to the members of the Stockbridge Working Men's Institute, Edinburgh. He said that English literature and English poetry began in the year 1250; for, although there was, in a sense, poetry and literature before that time, yet it could not be called English, as it was not till 1250 that that language became general in Great Britain. The term English poetry was not merely applied to that part of Great Britain called England, but also included Scotland; and the term was used in that sense by many of the old English writers. What he meant by old English poetry was the poetry produced between the years 1250 and 1400. There had come down from that period a great body of remains, a great deal of which had been printed, but still a great deal remained in MS. They had all sorts of MS. in that 150 years—songs of a political and general kind, metrical romances, and metrical chronicles. A large number of these were anonymous, and many were the writings of known authors; but in a great portion there was little interest felt. There were four or five or six men, if they took in prose-writers, living between 1350 and 1400 who wrote what was true literature and poetry; but he would confine himself to two of the greatest interest—one for a patriotic reason, and one for a reason connected with general interest in English literature. At that part of Scotland where Aberdeen now stands there appeared John Barbour, the first almost of the Scottish poets, who might be regarded as the father of English poetry and literature, and at London there appeared Geoffrey Chaucer. These two were the representatives of old English poetry. After giving a sketch of the life of Barbour, Professor Masson said his great poem was the life of King Robert the Bruce, written in much the same style as that by Sir Walter Scott. The poem was a historical sketch of Scotland from the year 1306 to 1321. Professor Masson read several extracts from this poem, and said that no other poem, ancient or modern, contained a passage about freedom more simple or terse. He said that they now came to speak of the other poet. Although they liked to make the most of Barbour, yet he was not to be named in the same hour with Chaucer for real intellectual greatness. Chaucer was a man of all time. Barbour was also a man of note, but interesting to them only as the best man that could be got in their part of the kingdom. Chaucer was without predecessors who could be named with him, and they had to come on 180 years after his death before any man could be found to compare with him—namely, Spenser. Professor Masson then referred at some length to Chaucer's masterpiece, the Canterbury Tales, giving a sketch of the plan of the poem and reading several extracts from it. He said the introduction and the manner in which the characters of the poem were portrayed were unrivaled in English literature. In concluding, Professor Masson said a notion was held by many people that in that age nothing but barbarism existed; but, taking such poetry as his guide, he hoped that they might never live in a worse age than that. He was very glad to think that the power of becoming perfectly acquainted with English literature and poetry, old or new, was likely to be largely increased and advanced. It had long been the conviction of a large number of people that, with all the cry about education, the thorough teaching of every boy and girl in the community to read and write in their own language would be a solution of the largest and most difficult part of the whole education question. And he was glad to think that this great kingdom would no longer lie under the scandal of permitting a single human being to be born in it without the means being taken to provide them with the most essential part of education. Although there were higher means of education, he believed that the one great gulf separating the really educated from the really uneducated was the power of reading in their own language, and where that power existed the rest would follow as a consequence. When that power of reading was made universal, he hoped that a park would be spent in becoming acquainted with old English literature, poetry and prose, as it was a high means of cultivating the mind.

NEW TIME LOG FOR TAILORS.—A new time log has been agreed upon in the tailoring trade of the provinces which seems to give equal satisfaction to masters and men. The chief point of this new log is the increase of prices for first-class work, such as frock and dress coats, the pay being raised from 4d. per hour to 5d. As a counterpoise, there is a trifling reduction on articles made from the soft materials, such as tweeds and cheviots, which will enable the first-class masters to compete on more favourable terms with those who pay only "slop" wages for all descriptions of work. Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and other large towns have agreed to the log.

## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY'S STAY AT OSBORNE being unavoidably prolonged in consequence of the late illness of his Royal Highness Prince Leopold, the Court which was announced for Tuesday, March 3, is postponed till Friday, March 6.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, with their children, arrived at Marlborough House on Tuesday from Sandringham. It is stated that the Princess has derived great benefit from her stay in Norfolk.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA gave birth to a Prince at three o'clock on Monday morning.

THE EX-KING OF NAPLES is so elated with the prospects of the reactionary party in Italy that he has reappointed his entire Cabinet, dismissed, it will be remembered, on the cession of Venice to Victor Emmanuel. Though the King ever since evacuating Naples has resided at Rome, the Pope, true to his legitimist doctrine, never recalled his Nuncio from the "Court of the Two Sicilies."

A STATUE OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT is about to be erected in the People's Park at Hull. A considerable portion of the estimated cost has been already contributed by the public. A marble statue (by Earle) of her Majesty already adorns the handsome park.

MISS NIGHTINGALE has subscribed £1000 to the fund now being raised for erecting an infirmary at Rotherham.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE made his first speech as candidate for Argyllshire, at Dunoon, last Saturday, and met with a very favourable reception.

GENERAL KLAUPKA AND PERCZEL are getting up a grand ball in Pesth, to which the Emperor Francis Joseph is to be invited. In 1849 the Emperor would have taken off their heads.

COLONEL BRUCE has been appointed head constable for Lancashire, in succession to Captain Elgee, who has resigned.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE is of opinion that he is not worthy the name of a man who would not stand his chance of being shot for the sake of science.

AN ADVANCE of 1s. per week in the wages of farm labourers in Norfolk is becoming general. The amended wages are 1s. per week.

MRS. BONAMY PRICE has been elected Professor of Political Economy at Oxford, obtaining 620 votes against 193 recorded in favour of the Rev. J. E. Thorold Rogers.

MR. MOSELEY, the general manager of the Great Eastern Railway, has resigned, and Mr. Swarbrick has been appointed to that post.

LORD WESTBURY'S YOUNGEST SON, the Hon. Walter Bethell, has been called to the Bar at the Middle Temple.

THE EAST LANCASHIRE COAL PROPRIETORS have resolved, in consequence of the depression which at present prevails in the trade, to reduce the wages of the colliers of that district.

THERE ARE 38,605 miles of railroad completed in the United States, the formation and equipment of which have cost £654,050,759 dols.

THE NEW HEAD MASTER OF ETON, Mr. Hornby, has been presented, according to custom, by the captain of the school, with a birch tied up with blue ribbons.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Mr. Odo Russell and Lady Emily Villiers, third daughter of the Earl of Clarendon.

A MAN AT RICHFIELD, Minnesota, United States, was put out of a train recently for not paying 10 cents extra, on account of having no ticket, and he was frozen to death.

AN OFFICIAL COMMITTEE, composed of Mr. Mowbray, Mr. Ward Hunt, and Mr. Slater-Booth, is sitting to investigate complaints as to salaries of the employés in the Customs and Inland Revenue departments.

MR. COCHRANE, of the firm of Pollock and Cochrane, Paisley, disappeared some days ago and has not since been heard of.

A PORTION OF MACDUFF'S CASTLE, near Wemyss, fell during the recent gales.

MESSRS. APIER AND SONS, of the Clyde, are building for the Dutch Government a steam-rail of about 3000 tons, and a turreted ship of 2000 tons.

THE EXHIBITION BUILDING in the Champ de Mars, together with all the materials composing it, was sold, last Saturday, by private agreement, to the agent of a company of foreign contractors, for the sum of £1,100,000.

MR. RENDEL, the consulting engineer of the East Indian Railway Company, has left for Calcutta, with the view of throwing a bridge over the Hooghly, so as to bring the company's railway fairly into the city.

THE SCHOONER JANE, of Portrush, was wrecked, on Saturday evening, near the Skerries Islands, and the captain and three men were drowned.

MRS. EDWARD A. POLLARD has shot a Dr. Moore, at Baltimore, during an altercation about the whereabouts of her husband, who has been absent from her some weeks. She was committed to gaol.

MUCH DAMAGE was done last Saturday at various places on the Eastern coast by the unusual height of the morning tide. On the banks of the Thames the lower stories of a large number of houses were inundated.

GENERAL VON ROON, the Prussian Minister of War, who received a sum of 300,000 thalers as a reward on the conclusion of the war, has devoted the amount to the creation of a family fund, which is to bear his name.

PARLIAMENTARY POWERS are to be applied for with the view of enabling a combination of English and French capitalists to erect, on the enclosed area of Leicester-square, a miniature Palais Royal, with a contiguous theatre and a Cercle des Etrangers.

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, which had already deprived the Infant Don Henry, brother of the King Consort, of his privileges and decorations, has just suppressed his pension of 6000 duros, on account of an offensive letter which he had addressed to the Queen.

A FENIAN PAPER, called the *Glasgow Free Press*, was on Sunday denounced from the altar in all the Roman Catholic churches of Scotland, in pursuance of orders from Rome. All ecclesiastical persons are inhibited from writing in the paper in question, which is declared to have caused "great scandal to Catholics."

A POLICE OFFICER was conveying a man and a woman, prisoners, from Greenock to Paisley, and on the train emerging from a tunnel the officer found that his male prisoner had left the carriage. Subsequent search discovered the man lying near the mouth of the tunnel, with one arm nearly severed from his body and the right foot shattered.

THE MARRIAGE OF MDLLE. PATTI is stated in the French papers to have been broken off. The story runs that the Marquis de Caux proposed to her in these terms:—"Mademoiselle, you are a queen; will you only be a Marchioness?" Mdlle. Patti answered, "Yes." The more recent version, however, is that she has said "No."

ADVICES have been received from Annesley Bay to Jan. 29. Sir Robert Napier had arrived at Senafe. It is reported that a skirmish had taken place in the direction of Antalo between a British reconnoitring party and some Abyssinian freebooters.

THE MAN NEEDELL, who fired a revolver at Thomas Chatterton, near the House of Detention, last week, was brought up on remand before the magistrate at Clerkenwell, on Wednesday morning. Certificates were put in that Needell appeared to be labouring under mental delusion, and that Chatterton was too ill to attend. The prisoner was remanded.

MR. JOHN PARSON, the chairman of the Metropolitan Railway Company, has, it is stated, been summoned before the Court of Chancery to show cause why he should not be committed for contempt of court for declaring a dividend at the rate of 5*1/2* per cent per annum in face of the recent judgment of Vice-Chancellor Wood.

AN EXPLORING EXPEDITION on the north coast of Australia, under Captain Caddell, has discovered a noble river, with a good pastoral country on its banks; also a fine haven, with an area of some fifty square miles; and on a part of the coast hitherto represented as dry land they sailed up a deep bay twenty miles in length by ten in breadth, with three large rivers emptying themselves into it.

OVER THE GRAVE OF ALEXANDER SMITH, in the Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh, there has recently been erected an iron or West Highland cross, of Binny stone, 12 ft. in height, and set in a massive square base. In the centre of the shaft is a bronze medallion of the poet, by Mr. W. Brodie, R.S.A. Above it is the inscription "Alexander Smith, Poet and Essayist," and below are the places and dates of his birth and death.

SIR RODERICK MURCHISON announced on Monday night, at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, that the Admiralty had rewarded Mr. Young, the leader of the Livingstone search expedition, by promoting him to the rank of gunner of the first class, giving him an appointment as naval chief officer in the Coastguard, and presenting him with £500.

GOVERNMENT have received an official letter, placing it beyond all doubt, on the highest possible authority, that the money which Mr. Rassam was charged with improperly receiving from King Theodore was at once credited by him to the State, and duly entered as such in his public accounts, with a memorandum setting forth that £800 dollars were taken back by the King when Mr. Rassam and his comrades were imprisoned.

ONE OF THE ARTILLERY SOLDIERS, named Hickey, who was in charge of the martello tower in Cork harbour when the Fenian party attacked it in December, has been tried by court-martial, convicted of disobedience to orders and neglect of duty, and sentenced to eighty-four days' imprisonment, with hard labour. This finding and sentence has been circulated to officers commanding regiments in Ireland for the purpose of its being generally made known.

MR. JOHN HOWARD MANN, aged twenty-seven years, son of Dr. Mann, of Charterhouse-square, and town traveller to Meers, Walters and Sons, silk manufacturers, of Newgate-street, has met his death in a shocking manner. He was addicted to sleepwalking, and one night about three weeks ago, when he was sleeping at his employers' house, he got up, went out of the widow on to the leads and fell through a skylight. The injuries resulting caused his death.

SIXTY YEARS AGO there was hardly a Jewish convert to Christianity in Great Britain. Now there are twenty thousand converts on the Continent and three thousand in England, of whom one hundred are clergymen in the Church of England. In the University of Berlin twenty-eight of the professors are converted Jews.

THE COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS FROM AMERICA continue to show an extraordinary falling off in the trade with this and other countries, the value of the goods imported at New York in January having been only about £1,910,000, against £2,990,000 in the same month of last year, and £3,600,000 in £1862. The exportation of gold, however, has been £1,400,000, against £500,000 in each January of the two preceding years.

MR. DIGBY SEYMOUR and a large delegation left the Irish address to the Home Office on Tuesday. It numbers 22,603 signatures, and is tied with green ribbon. Mr. Hardy took it in; a quite exceptional act, for such things are generally left with the porter. He thanked Mr. Seymour and his friends for the moral assistance they were offering to the Government. The public will thank Mr. Seymour too; anybody's moral assistance is welcome in these times.

BRIGANDAGE seems to be flourishing in the provinces of Frosinone and Velletri. A correspondent, writing on the 6th, says:—"I have before me a note, written by the leader of a band which infests the wood of Fabola, in the neighbourhood of Velletri, to a country dealer, who is ordered to bring to him 300 crowns in gold, two pairs of boots, ten shirts of fine linen, four bottles of Rosolio, and two of old rum, being threatened otherwise with death. This brigand-like demand was punctually satisfied. The brigands are beginning to kill the cattle again of those who refuse to yield to their exactions."

MR. DAVID BROWN, gas manager at Crieff, has "mysteriously disappeared." Mr. Brown had felt unwell for some days, and last Saturday night he got a small quantity of laudanum to make him sleep. Between five and six o'clock on Sunday morning his aunt went to his bed-room to see how he was sleeping, but to her surprise she found that her nephew was not there. Immediately afterwards it was discovered that Mr. Brown had left his room by a front window, and had taken with him some books and the bottle containing the laudanum, but had left his watch on a table. Nothing has yet been heard of him.

## PARIS COSSIP.

SINCE I last wrote, the press bill has been the absorbing political subject. Nothing can be more animated—I might almost say impassioned—than the debates in the Chamber. It is impossible to foretell what the measure may be when turned out into a complete Act from the legislative mill; the only provision already certain is, that anybody will henceforth be able to start a paper without leave first had. The questions now in discussion are whether journals so started shall be allowed to live—for instance, what amount of stamp duty should be exacted, and whether equally from all or not; and what the maximum of fines for political offences; the suppression of printing licenses, and others of a like character. These are vital points. The caution money which every paper must lodge before being brought out is, in Paris, £2000; in the provinces a great deal less; and what are termed mere literary journals give no deposit at all. The latter need not be stamped; but in the capital political organs are to pay 5c. (or a halfpenny) duty, and in the provinces 3c. On this clause the Opposition has carried an amendment for a reduction, which has been referred back to the Committee; but, as to the fines, they may for a single offence—and offences are left to be decided in the breast of the Judge (not jury)—amount to £3200. The clause was vehemently opposed, as opening the door to confiscation, but it was carried by a large majority.

If you would like to know the real object of the legislator—who is, in fact, the Emperor—in all these so-called fiscal arrangements, termed by one Minister "the impost of consumption" and by another "the impost of compensation," and of these heavy fines for political offences by the press, I can tell you; for it appears as clear as light by the debates: it is to curb, and if necessary to repress, free political discussion in the Paris newspapers. To do so may be wise and necessary, or it may not; but, at any rate, it is so, and I cannot say that the history of France for the last seventy years condemns the proceeding.

MARSHAL NIEL has been prompt to act on powers given by the new Army Act. Instructions have been issued by the War Office to get the National Mobile Guard called out this month, and the active army contingent of 100,000 men is also called for. In the prescriptions respecting the latter there is nothing altered, but at least 95 per cent will be had, and in a couple of months every man between twenty and twenty-five in France capable of bearing arms will be under the flag or under drill. There is considerable activity at Toulon in bringing back a portion of the Roman expeditionary force, and I believe everything is in a state of preparedness there to embark a strong corps to the Levant, should the intrigues of the Czar, the King of Greece, the Prince of Serbia, and his of the Princes end in once more setting fire to the Eastern question.

The Imperial Court and the entire of the political notabilities are continuing their round of dinners, concerts, receptions, and balls. The Jenkinses of the Paris press, this being the height of their, as well as of the fashionable, season, have to register among other things the loveliness of the women and the freshness of the dresses. As I had not the honour of an invitation, I cannot say I saw what I here describe; but no doubt it is quite accurate. I could not think, at any rate, of withholding it from your fair readers. At the last ball at the Tuilleries I am told, the Empress—whom I saw in the Bois de Boulogne a day or two before, looking extremely ill—was attired in a robe of green crêpe, with garlands of periwinkle flowers round the bottom skirt, with a blaze of diamonds on her head and neck, and, as usual, a brilliant bee on her fair forehead. Princess Metternich, plainly dressed, had an accident, for, on entering, one volant of her skirt was torn off by a naughty crotchet of the door; but perhaps this was a provised effect.

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## Literature.

*The Wizard of the Mountain.* By WILLIAM GILBERT, Author of "Dr. Austin's Guests," &c. 2 vols. London: Strahan.

Certain qualities which have long since been admired in Mr. Gilbert's writings do him admirable service in the volumes before us. The language he uses is always plain and straightforward, and his style—if a delicate distinction may be drawn—is so minute and circumstantial, without being necessarily tedious, that the strange things which he writes read like truth, whether the reader will or not. "The Wizard of the Mountain" is the general title for a series of ancient Lombardian tales of the times when chivalry, plague, and general license had their sway in Northern Italy, and a little magic was by no means looked upon irreverently, despite the anathemas of the Church. The wizard, it may be as well to explain, is the connecting link between all the stories, which, however, have nothing else in common, although, indeed, some characters turn up more than once—a feature, again, which gives an air of vitality, since an altogether new character would have answered the purpose quite as well. The castle inhabited by the wizard—or the "Innominate," as he was called—is understood to have long since crumbled into dust, and the place to have been exorcised by the priests. But since a belief in priests is nearly as much exploded as the belief in wizards, and since many people are still doubtful as to the final settlement of anything that once has been, or at least would wish to "try their luck" for themselves, we will give the exact site of the castle for the benefit of such romantic and travelling sceptics who may wish to pay it a visit. If you plant yourself at the centre of the base of the triangle which is formed by the high road running from Como to Lecco in the south, while the sides stretching upwards terminate at the apex formed at Bellagio in the north, and then wander a little distance eastward of Lecco, and ask the way, why, the thing is done. But, as it seems absolutely certain that you will not understand the patois of the peasants, the journey may be found not only dangerous but difficult. Mr. Gilbert, however, is not one to be daunted by difficulties and dangers. His adventurous spirit carried him on to the ruins; and, his interest awakened, he gathered from all kinds of sources, but principally from traditions cherished by oldest inhabitants, the series of legends of the famous wizard, or Innominate, to which he now gives an English dress. It is but fair to say that the priest who collected them thought that there was so much that was false mixed up with what might have been true, as to render them of little or no value; and it is also as well to know that this same priest was "rather an eccentric character, and occasionally it was exceedingly difficult to know if he was in jest or in earnest." The reader may be left to judge. For ourselves, it matters nothing whatever whether the balance of jest and earnest rests with the Italian priest or the English novelist. We are sufficiently satisfied to have a number of remarkably good stories, never dull nor too long; always interesting—nay, fascinating; and told with the artistic skill already described. At times they have much of that grotesque playfulness and quaintness to be met with in the "Decameron;" and sometimes there is a poetic ingenuity displayed in the magical passages which irresistibly suggest "The Arabian Nights." The wizard is ultimately proved to have been a servant of the Prince of Darkness; but yet all his deeds seem to be done to some good end. He punishes the bad, whilst seeming to accomplish for them their wishes; whilst those who are simply the momentary slaves of folly, are cured by having their follies gratified for a time, with final permission for them to be "as they were." Thus the brutal robber lord who would seize the village beauty, at last gains her hand in marriage. But his violence has killed her mouth before, and she sucks his life's blood from out his jugular vein, as is the custom of injured corpse-vampires raised from the grave to marry noble freebooters. An aged couple, who would be young again, are accommodated in another fashion. The husband retains his aged appearance, but has all the gay and frolicsome appearance of a youth; whilst the wife is made to look like sweet seventeen, and to have all the want of taste and of inclination of grave severity. Their adventures are most ludicrous, until they mutually agree to avail themselves of the wizard's permission, and become once more a sensible and respected old couple. It would be difficult to select for especial praise any one of these ten or twelve stories. All will be generally liked. Keats would have made a perfect poem of "The Physician's Daughter;" Le Sage would not have scorned the humour and irony of "Don Bucefalo and the Curate;" and we believe that all the others would, if they had had the chance, have formed worthy portions of collections of tales now held to be almost inimitable. This is saying very much, indeed; but there is no more exaggeration in the praise than is usually given at the first blush of a great gratification.

*Lilla's Relations.* By HENRIETTA. London: T. and C. Mozley. "Lilla's Relations" is a little story for girls, which certainly comes late in the season for making presents. But there are occasions all round the year, besides Christmas, and Henrietta must share the common chance. Henrietta gives us a girl's view of girls; and generally in the most orderly and proper manner possible. To be sure, Lilla is a little wayward, occasionally unladylike; but she has been brought up entirely by a widowed father, a Devonshire clergyman, without any society save that of some old college friends of papa. When she meets her relations, nearly all feminine, the contrasts show up; but still the women seem to have "no character at all," and much the same may be said of the men. As far as the story goes, we may leave it alone, confident that the details of country and town life, of Paris and Fontainebleau, will interest young ladies who have as yet only dreamed of coming out, and to whom village school teaching is more natural than ball-room flirtation and dancing. There is a real sick-room atmosphere all through the book, which is depressing and unnecessary. There is always somebody ill, and nothing comes of it save the conversion and death of one giddy girl. When Charles falls over the cat and breaks his arm, Lilla inquires if the cat is hurt; and elsewhere, on a more important subject, Henrietta speaks of a girl who will look after young men in a manner that sets well-meaning Mrs. Skey at utter defiance.

*Natural Philosophy, Popularly Explained.* By the Rev. S. HAUGHTON, M.D., F.R.S. With numerous Illustrations. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

This is a very clear exposition of the Elements of Natural Philosophy, from which a student with little assistance, provided he has a certain amount of knowledge in his head, and a head that desires to hold a little more knowledge, may easily and pleasantly make himself master of the great things which govern the world, if one or two Emperors will permit the use of that expression. The chapters are eight in number, comprising Statics, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, Dynamics, Hydrodynamics, Acoustics, Light, and Heat. There are juveniles who will probably blunder over some of these hard words; but they must not despair. Mr. Haughton puts everything into good English, and almost every page is rendered as "plain as daylight" by a wood engraving which ought to leave but little chance of doubt or mistake.

*Wholesome Fare; or, the Doctor and the Cook. A Manual of the Laws of Food and the Practice of Cookery, embodying the best Receipts in British and Continental Cookery, with Hints and Receipts for the Sedentary, the Sick, and the Convalescent.* By EDMUND S. and ELLEN J. DELAMERE. London: Lockwood and Co.

Some readers may think the above a somewhat prolix title for a book on cookery; but then the subject embraced is a large one—nothing less than the philosophy of food and of its preparation, together with practical details; and the book itself is a big book. So book, matter, and title are in keeping with each other. Many persons deem cookery-books dry reading—indeed, fit only for reference

in the kitchen. And perhaps this may be true of some cookery-books, but not when the subject is treated in the style in which the authors of the present volume handle their theme. We doubt if anything can be of greater importance to the physical well-being of men than to know what is "wholesome fare," and how food can be so prepared as to be pleasant to the palate and yet continue wholesome to the stomach. Every one must have felt—especially after having reached a certain period of life—how much the comfort of existence depends on the state of the stomach, and how that, again, depends on the food consumed. When the digestive organs are disordered everything is out of joint with us, and it is no easy matter to get matters set right again. Those, therefore, who furnish wholesome counsel on so vital a matter are clearly to be ranked among the benefactors of their race. And this is what the authors of this book have endeavoured to do, and with considerable success. If they have not accomplished all they aimed at—and to do that is rarely vouchsafed to either man or woman, or even, as in this instance, to both combined—Edmund and Ellen Delamere have, at least, taken the right road, and have gone a long way towards reaching the goal. Their book treats of the properties and relative value of different kinds of food, of the hygienic effects of cookery, of the comparative excellence and defects of French and English dishes, of American and German methods of cooking, as well as of many other points of importance to the taste, the health, and the pocket. And they have handled all these matters in a popular and, as far as possible, interesting manner. To the philosophy of cookery there are added practical receipts and plain directions for preparing every description of food, the whole being printed in large, clear, legible type, and accompanied by a convenient index. Altogether, this is one of the best books on the subject that we have met with. It will be equally welcome to the gastronomic student and to the director of domestic culinary operations.

*Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.* Illustrated by the late C. H. Bennett, with Forty-four Plates and upwards of Eighty Woodcuts. London: Bradbury, Evans, and Co.

This is a very beautiful reissue of the "Pilgrim's Progress" as illustrated by the late Mr. C. H. Bennett. The plates and woodcuts have been kindly presented by Messrs. Longmans and Co., and the profits of this edition are to be devoted to the benefit of the artist's family, for whose sake, as well as for that of purchasers, we wish the book a large sale. The volume will be really very handsome, for it is beautifully printed on fine toned paper, with coloured marginal lines and other ornaments; and it will be cheap, for it is to be completed in seventeen monthly shilling parts. Parts I. and II. are already published.

*The Art of Wood-Carving: Practical Hints to Amateurs, and a Short History of the Art.* By GEORGE ALFRED ROGERS, Artist on Wood to the Queen and Professor at the Crystal Palace School of Art, Author of "Some Account of the Wood-Carvings of St. Michael's Church, Cornhill." London: Virtue and Co.

*Original Designs for Wood-Carving: With Practical Instructions in the Art.* By A. F. B. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. Both these books have the same object in view—namely, to instruct amateurs in the art of wood-carving, and both, we should think, are well calculated to subserve their purpose. There are always in society a certain number of men and women who have no particular business to attend to, and who yet stand in need of "something to do;" and probably no form of "elegant trifling" could afford a mere pleasure, and at the same time absolutely harmless, occupation than practising wood-carving. To those persons Mr. Rogers offers instructions, hints as to tools, and designs for practice, which will no doubt be useful to amateurs of "my profession," as the author calls the wood-carver's art. A. F. B. aims at something more than this, for he supplies designs to "artists in wood who are not sufficiently skilful draughtsmen to originate their own designs." We have no doubt the labours of both gentlemen—that is, supposing A. F. B. to be a gentleman—will be serviceable; and we wish them every success in their efforts to disseminate a taste for a very elegant branch of art.

*Pigeons: their Structure, Varieties, Habits and Management.* By W. B. TEGETMEIER, F.S.A. Author of "The Poultry-Book," With illustrations by Harrison Weir. London: Routledge and Sons.

The names of all the individuals concerned in getting up this book are guarantees of its excellence: the author is Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, the illustrator is Mr. Harrison Weir, and the printers are Leighton Brothers. Mr. Tegetmeier has long been known as a diligent student of the natural history of the feathered tribes, and has already given to the world several works on his favourite theme. The skill of Mr. Harrison Weir in delineating the animal world is second to that of few artists of the day. His illustrations to this handsome volume have been drawn and coloured from life, and are singularly true to life, for the artist's designs have been reproduced in brilliant but well-toned hues by the printers. In the text we have a very full account of the pigeon, beginning with the structure, and describing the origin of the different varieties. The chapters on management will be especially useful to those who keep, or are about to keep, pigeons. Besides being carefully written and beautifully illustrated and printed, this volume is handsomely bound, and is at once a very ornamental and most useful work. By-the-by, we may as well mention that Mr. Tegetmeier, while availing himself of some of the observations made by Dr. Darwin, does not enter into the controversy produced by that learned writer's theories as to the origin and development of species.

*Beeton's Dictionary of Geography: a Universal Gazetteer.* London: Ward, Lock, and Tyler.

Beeton's dictionaries are now pretty well known as useful books. The "Dictionary of Universal Information" and the "Dictionary of Universal Biography" have been before the public for several years, and have taken a good place as books of reference. To these Mr. Beeton is now adding, uniform with them in plan and "get-up," a "Dictionary of Geography," which promises to be equally useful. It is to contain upwards of 12,000 distinct and complete articles; it is to be illustrated by coloured maps, ancient, modern, and biblical, with 1000 engravings of the principal cities of the world, English county towns, the strong places of the earth, courses of the principal rivers, and localities of general interest. It is, moreover, printed in a clear though necessarily small type; each part contains eighty pages, price only sixpence; and the whole work is to be completed in from twelve to fourteen monthly parts; so that for six or seven shillings a complete universal gazetteer, with (we presume) all the latest information, may be obtained. The first two parts have appeared, and contain maps of Abyssinia, Asia Minor, and Africa, with numerous illustrations of places of interest and importance, such as Auckland (New Zealand), Augsburg, Ayr, the Bass Rock, Berlin, &c.

*Henry Holbeach, Student in Life and Philosophy; a Narrative and a Discussion.* Second Edition. London: Alexander Strahan.

This is the second edition of a work, full of original and striking views, which was noticed in these columns on its first appearance. Since then the author, as was not unnatural, has had something of a controversy added to his "narrative and discussion," and has prefaced this edition by a "restatement of the case," which will add much to the value of the work, which we again recommend to the attention of thinkers, while still claiming the privilege of differing from some of Mr. Holbeach's opinions. But, whether agreeing with the author or not, every reader will find new trains of thought suggested to his mind, and cannot fail to admire the sincerity, frankness, and genial spirit that pervades the work.

## MR. LOWE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The following answer has been given by Mr. Lowe to an address from 250 graduates of the University of London:—

"34, Lowndes-square, Feb. 10.

"Gentlemen.—I receive with pleasure and gratitude the request from so many distinguished graduates that I should offer myself as a candidate for the honour of representing the University of London in Parliament.

"As the University was founded on Liberal principles by Liberal men, and is the truest and fullest expression yet attained of all that is free, progressive, and unsectarian in education, the person who aspires to represent it ought, in my judgment, to hold thoroughly Liberal opinions, and be a member of the party to which the University owes its existence. In ordinary times I should have thought it sufficient to refer you to my votes and speeches during the fifteen years which comprise my Parliamentary life, and to my labours on many Royal Commissions and on Select Committees. I have ever striven, to the best of my ability, to reform our law by bringing it within the principles of enlightened jurisprudence, to abolish all distinctions and disabilities founded on religious belief, to keep our practice in strict conformity with the principles of political economy, to substitute merit for patronage as a means of entering and rising in the public service, to promote the education of all classes, to enforce economy in the public expenditure, and to restrict the interference of the State within narrow and definite limits, so as to leave the utmost scope, consistent with order and good government, to private enterprise and discretion. I may mention, among other measures which I have carried through the House of Commons, the Joint-stock Companies Act of 1856, the Act for giving permanence to the medical department of the Privy Council, the enlargement of the powers of the Charity Commission, and the change in the minutes of education known as the Revised Code.

"But the political conjuncture is so singular, and the state of parties so disorganized, that it may be advisable to say something definite on the present and future as well, as the past. I dissent from the policy of the Liberal party on the Parliamentary franchise because I thought, and still think, that really liberal and enlightened measures and administration were more likely to be attained under the old than under the new constituencies. The question is decided; argument is at an end, and we wait the teaching of experience. I hope events may prove me to be wrong, and have no wish to revive the controversy. Our duty is, without loss of time, to adapt ourselves to the great change that has taken place. We must expect a much greater demand for equality than heretofore, and ought to pass our institutions in review—modifying such things as seem likely to wound this feeling, and founding ourselves upon principles which will bear the test of discussion in a democratic assembly.

"The redistribution of seats is forced upon us by the change in the franchise, since what has been already done is quite inadequate to bring these two parts of the measure into harmony with each other; I voted last year for a larger disfranchisement of small boroughs, and shall be prepared to do so again.

"I dissent from the destructive Conservatism which would keep the House of Lords just as it is, and would gladly see that House enabled better to resist pressure, by being placed more on the footing of a senate where distinguished merit might find a place beside rank and wealth. It is not safe to stake everything on a vote of a single Chamber.

"I view the revenues of the so-called Church of Ireland as the property of the State, the appropriation of which may properly be changed, with a due respect for vested interests; and the Church itself as an unjust institution, irritating to Ireland, and discreditable to us in the eyes of foreign nations. I wish to preserve mixed education in Ireland intact, and for all other students than those in the Queen's Colleges to found a University in Ireland similar to our own.

"Several Parliamentary investigations of the state of Ireland in which I have been engaged, while they have thoroughly impressed upon me the vast imperial importance of appeasing her discontent and promoting her prosperity, have also taught me that the evils of Ireland are mainly social, theological, and economical. They cannot be remedied, and may easily be aggravated by legislative interference with contracts between private parties acting with full knowledge.

"The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge ought, I think, to be governed by such graduates as are concerned with their teaching and discipline. The Universities and all collegiate endowments should be open to all persons without religious test, and without requiring them to be members of any college or hall. The colleges should enjoy full powers of legislation and self-government, and should contribute from their revenues whatever may be required to give the Universities more teaching power and a more complete and efficient staff of professors.

"The time has come when, if we wish to be well governed at home, or respected abroad, we must make education accessible to all. This can be done without any immediate destruction of the existing system by establishing secular schools, supported by rates wherever voluntary exertion fails.

"I have served for fourteen years as a commissioner for making a code of procedure and of substantive law for India, and the experience which I have gained in this way has taught me that it is both possible and expedient to reduce the law of England to a code, that the distinction between law and equity ought to be abolished, and that the law of real property ought, allowance being made for the difference in the subject matter, to be assimilated to the law of personal property. As a part of this position I have supported the bill for the division of the estates of intestate owners in the simple, according to the Statute of Distributions. I do not wish to make this measure a stepping-stone to a compulsory division of land or to any restriction of the freedom of the owner to sell or settle it. My reason for supporting this measure is, that the law when it makes a will for a man should make a just will, and that it is not just to give all to one child, and leave the others, especially the female children, to starve.

"I am extremely anxious for peace, and therefore am opposed to a meddling diplomacy and to the delusive idea that the real strength of England can be increased by the forcible acquisition of territories imposing heavy burdens on her people, without giving men to her armies or taxes to her exchequer.

"Economy is little regarded in these days, but I believe extravagance to be doubly an evil, as a needless waste of the money of the people, and as the sure sign of inefficiency. The true way to save is not the cutting down of single items, but a more complete organisation of our departments, and the determination that for whatever the country spends it shall have full value in labour, talent, or materials. The Revised Code has saved us half a million a year, but it has been by making the department of education more efficient.

"I cannot expect that all these opinions will command your assent. I can only hope that they will appear to you on the whole not unsuited to one who aspires to the high honour of representing the University of London in Parliament.

"I am, Gentlemen, your obliged and faithful Servant,

"ROBERT LOWE."

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN AUSTRALIA.**—A melancholy accident is recorded to have marred the rejoicings at Sandhurst on the occasion of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the diggings in that locality. Among other modes of complimenting his Royal Highness, the people had, on the night of the illumination, provided a model of the Galatea, manned by little boys, which was wheeled through the streets at night. Its decks were partly occupied by fireworks. Amongst these a careless or mischievous bystander tossed a cracker; and accordingly the model blew up, burning the little crew so severely that three of them died shortly afterwards. When in the Ballarat districts his Royal Highness visited the celebrated Band of Hope claim, and descended 450 ft. into the bowels of the earth, where he was conducted to the richest part of the mine, and knocked out for himself so many and such large nuggets that it has been suspected the loyalty of the directors contrived for his Royal Highness a Royal road to gold-digging on the occasion. Be this as it may, the Duke was delighted with his success, and has forwarded for the Queen's inspection a photograph of himself and his suite as they emerged, mud-stained, from their particularly successful adventure.

## THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER.

We have recently published some engravings illustrative of the accommodation provided for the members of the French Parliament, and we now complete the series by giving a view of the Legislative Chamber while in Session. As most persons are aware, the French conduct their Parliamentary debates in a different fashion from that which obtains at Westminster. The members do not address the Chamber from their usual places, as with us; but each speaker, having first entered his name on the roll of intending debaters, is called up in his turn, and delivers his oration from a tribune in front of the President's chair. The addressees, too, are frequently read from previously-prepared manuscripts, the English system of extempore debate not being generally in vogue among our neighbours. This practice of reading written essays, though it may give scope for greater polish and brilliancy, and impart a certain logical coherence to an address, deprives the speeches of that lifelike character with which immediately answering an opponent's arguments imbues the discussions of our own Parliament, and which, indeed, constitutes debate in the proper sense of the term. Of course, many French Parliamentary orators—such as M. Itouher, M. Jules Favre, M. Berryer, and others—often speak extemporaneously; but we believe that written orations are the fashion with the majority of the members of both Chambers.

Great changes have recently been made in the system of conducting business, as well as in the arrangement of parties in the French Chambers: indeed, parties can scarcely be said to exist now, for the Opposition is so small in numbers, however powerful in intellect, as to be nearly insignificant. In the old times of Parliamentary government in France, and even in the stormy days of the Constituent Assembly and Convention of the first Revolution, the members of the Chamber were divided into distinct parties. There were the Right, or adherents of those in power; the Left, or regular Opposition; the Centre (classified, again, as Right Centre and Left Centre), composed of deputies who inclined more or less to one or other of the two great parties of "ins" and "outs," but who were not reckoned as inviolable adherents of either—something, in fact, like the "gentlemen below the gangway," or independent members of our House of Commons; and, finally, there was "The Mountain" or extreme politicians, who occupied the elevated benches at the back of the hall, and who from that circumstance obtained their distinctive appellation. All these parties have now, however, disappeared; and the Chambers are at present composed of an overwhelming majority of supporters of Government, and a small, but, as we have said, talented and vigorous Opposition.

Considerable restriction, too, is imposed on the freedom of debate. A member does not, as with us, merely give notice of his intention to introduce a bill, bring on a motion, or ask a question, and then proceed to do so in due course. Private members in France cannot initiate legislation at all, and when it is desired to discuss a question, the intended motion or "interpellation" must first be submitted to the President; if not deemed objectionable by that functionary (who, by-the-by, is appointed by the Emperor, not elected by the Deputies), it is passed on to the bureaux or committees; and, if approved by a majority of these tribunals, the member is permitted to "develop" the subject; but not till all these formalities have been complied with can discussion take place. Measures introduced by the Government are of course open to debate, both as to principles and details; but from these hints it will be seen that Parliamentary affairs are managed in a very different way in France from what they are with us.

## PROFESSOR MASSON ON "OLD ENGLISH POETRY."

On Tuesday night Professor Masson delivered a lecture on "Old English Poetry" to the members of the Stockbridge Working Men's Institute, Edinburgh. He said that English literature and English poetry began in the year 1250; for, although there was, in a sense, poetry and literature before that time, yet it could not be called English, as it was not till 1250 that that language became general in Great Britain. The term English poetry was not merely applied to that part of Great Britain called England, but also included Scotland; and the term was used in that sense by many of the old English writers. What he meant by old English poetry was the poetry produced between the years 1250 and 1400. There had come down from that period a great body of remains, a great deal of which had been printed, but still a great deal remained in MS. They had all sorts of MS. in that 150 years—songs of a political and general kind, metrical romances, and metrical chronicles. A large number of these were anonymous, and many were the writings of known authors; but in a great portion there was little interest felt. There were four or five or six men, if they took in prose-writers, living between 1350 and 1400 who wrote what was true literature and poetry; but he would confine himself to two of the greatest interest—one for a patriotic reason, and one for a reason connected with general interest in English literature. At that part of Scotland where Aberdeen now stands there appeared John Barbour, the first almost of the Scottish poets, who might be regarded as the father of English poetry and literature, and at London there appeared Geoffrey Chaucer. These two were the representatives of old English poetry. After giving a sketch of the life of Barbour, Professor Masson said his great poem was the life of King Robert the Bruce, written in much the same style as that by Sir Walter Scott. The poem was a historical sketch of Scotland from the year 1306 to 1321. Professor Masson read several extracts from this poem, and said that no other poem, ancient or modern, contained a passage about freedom more simple or terse. He said that they now came to speak of the other poet. Although they liked to make the most of Barbour, yet he was not to be named in the same hour with Chaucer for real intellectual greatness. Chaucer was a man of all time. Barbour was also a man of note, but interesting to them only as the best man that could be got in their part of the kingdom. Chaucer was without predecessors who could be named with him, and they had to come on 180 years after his death before any man could be found to compare with him—namely, Spenser. Professor Masson then referred at some length to Chancer's masterpiece, the Canterbury Tales, giving a sketch of the plan of the poem and reading several extracts from it. He said the introduction and the manner in which the characters of the poem were portrayed were unrivaled in English literature. In concluding, Professor Masson said a notion was held by many people that in that age nothing but barbarism existed; but, taking such poetry as his guide, he hoped that they might never live in a worse age than that. He was very glad to think that the power of becoming perfectly acquainted with English literature and poetry, old or new, was likely to be largely increased and advanced. It had long been the conviction of a large number of people that, with all the cry about education, the thorough teaching of every boy and girl in the community to read and write in their own language would be a solution of the largest and most difficult part of the whole education question. And he was glad to think that this great kingdom would no longer lie under the scandal of permitting a single human being to be born in it without the means being taken to provide them with the most essential part of education. Although there were higher means of education, he believed that the one great gulf separating the really educated from the really uneducated was the power of reading in their own language, and where that power existed the rest would follow as a consequence. When that power of reading was made universal, he hoped that a part would be spent in becoming acquainted with old English literature, poetry and prose, as it was a high means of cultivating the mind.

NEW TIME LOG FOR TAILORS.—A new time log has been agreed upon in the tailoring trade of the provinces which seems to give equal satisfaction to masters and men. The chief point of this new log is the increase of prices for first-class work, such as frock and dress coats, the pay being raised from 4d. per hour to 5d. As a counterpoise, there is a trifling reduction on articles made from the soft materials, such as tweeds and cheviots, which will enable the first-class masters to compete on more favourable terms with those who pay only "slop" wages for all descriptions of work. Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and other large towns have agreed to the log.

## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY'S STAY AT OSBORNE being unavoidably prolonged in consequence of the late illness of his Royal Highness Prince Leopold, the Court which was announced for Tuesday, March 3, is postponed till Friday, March 6.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, with their children, arrived at Marlborough House on Tuesday from Sandringham. It is stated that the Princess has derived great benefit from her stay in Norfolk.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA gave birth to a Prince at three o'clock on Monday morning.

THE EX-KING OF NAPLES is so elated with the prospects of the reactionary party in Italy that he has reappointed his entire Cabinet, dismissed, it will be remembered, on the cession of Venice to Victor Emmanuel. Though the King ever since evacuating Naples has resided at Rome, the Pope, true to his legitimist doctrine, never recalled his Nuncio from the "Court of the Two Sicilies."

A STATUE OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT is about to be erected in the People's Park at Hull. A considerable portion of the estimated cost has been already contributed by the public. A marble statue (by Earle) of her Majesty already adorns the handsome park.

MISS NIGHTINGALE has subscribed £1000 to the fund now being raised for erecting an infirmary at Rotherham.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE made his first speech as candidate for Argyleshire, at Dunoon, last Saturday, and met with a very favourable reception.

GENERAL KLAUPKA AND PERCZEL are getting up a grand ball in Pesth, to which the Emperor Francis Joseph is to be invited. In 1849 the Emperor would have taken off their heads.

COLONEL BRUCE has been appointed head constable for Lancashire, in succession to Captain Elgee, who has resigned.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE is of opinion that he is not worthy the name of a man who would not stand his chance of being shot for the sake of science.

AN ADVANCE of 1s. per week in the wages of farm labourers in Norfolk is becoming general. The amended wages are 1s. per week.

MRI. BONAMY PRICE has been elected Professor of Political Economy at Oxford, obtaining 620 votes against 193 recorded in favour of the Rev. J. E. Thorold Rogers.

MRI. MOSELEY, the general manager of the Great Eastern Railway, has resigned, and Mr. Swarbrick has been appointed to that post.

LORD WESTBURY'S YOUNGEST SON, the Hon. Walter Bethell, has been called to the Bar at the Middle Temple.

THE EAST LANCASHIRE COAL PROPRIETORS have resolved, in consequence of the depression which at present prevails in the trade, to reduce the wages of the colliers of that district.

THERE ARE 38,605 miles of railroad completed in the United States, the formation and equipment of which have cost 1,654,150,799 dollars.

THE NEW HEAD MASTER OF ETON, Mr. Hornby, has been presented, according to custom, by the captain of the school, with a birch tied up with blue ribbons.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Mr. Odo Russell and Lady Emily Villiers, third daughter of the Earl of Clarendon.

A MAN AT RICHFIELD, Minnesota, United States, was put out of a train recently for not paying 10 cents extra, on account of having no ticket, and he was frozen to death.

AN OFFICIAL COMMITTEE, composed of Mr. Mowbray, Mr. Ward Hunt, and Mr. Slater-Booth, is sitting to investigate complaints as to salaries of the employees in the Customs and Inland Revenue departments.

MRI. COCHRANE, of the firm of Pollock and Cochrane, Paisley, disappeared some days ago and has not since been heard of.

A PORTION OF MACDUFF'S CASTLE, near Wemyss, fell during the recent gales.

MRS. NAPIER AND SONS, of the Clyde, are building for the Dutch Government a steam-ram of about 3000 tons, and a turret-ship of 2000 tons.

THE EXHIBITION BUILDING in the Champ de Mars, together with all the materials composing it, was sold, last Saturday, by private agreement, to the agent of a company of foreign contractors, for the sum of £1,100,000.

MRI. RENDEL, the consulting engineer of the East Indian Railway Company, has left for Calcutta, with the view of throwing a bridge over the Hooghly, so as to bring the company's railway fairly into the city.

THE SCHOONER JANE, of Portrush, was wrecked, on Saturday evening, near the Skerries Islands, and the captain and three men were drowned.

MRS. EDWARD A. POLLARD has shot a Dr. Moore, at Baltimore, during an altercation about the whereabouts of her husband, who has been absent from her some weeks. She was committed to gaol.

MUCH DAMAGE was done last Saturday at various places on the Eastern coast by the unusual height of the morning tide. On the banks of the Thames the lower stories of a large number of houses were inundated.

GENERAL VON ROON, the Prussian Minister of War, who received a sum of 300,000 thalers as a reward on the conclusion of the war, has devoted the amount to the creation of a family fund, which is to bear his name.

PARLIAMENTARY POWERS are to be applied for with the view of enabling a combination of English and French capitalists to erect, on the enclosed area of Leicester-square, a miniature Palais Royal, with a contiguous theatre and a Cercle des Etrangers.

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, which had already deprived the Infant Don Henry, brother of the King Consort, of his privileges and decorations, has just suppressed his pension of 6000 duros, on account of an offensive letter which he had addressed to the Queen.

A FENIAN PAPER, called the *Glasgow Free Press*, was on Sunday denounced from the altar in all the Roman Catholic churches of Scotland, in pursuance of orders from Rome. All ecclesiastical persons are inhibited from writing in the paper in question, which is declared to have caused a great scandal to Catholics."

A POLICE OFFICER was conveying a man and a woman, prisoners, from Greenock to Paisley, and on the train emerging from a tunnel the officer found that his male prisoner had left the carriage. Subsequent search discovered the man lying near the mouth of the tunnel, with one arm broken from his body and the right foot shattered.

THE MARRIAGE OF MOLLE PATTI is stated in the French papers to have been broken off. The story runs that the Marquis de Caix proposed to her in these terms:—"Mademoiselle, you are a queen; will you only be a Marchioness?" Mdle. Patti answered, "Yes." The more recent version, however, is that she has said "No."

ADVICES have been received from Annesley Bay to Jan. 29. Sir Robert Napier had arrived at Senafe. It is reported that a skirmish had taken place in the direction of Antalo between a British reconnoitring party and some Abyssinian freebooters.

THE MAN NEEDELL, who fired a revolver at Thomas Chatterton, near the House of Detention, last week, was brought up on remand before the magistrate at Clerkenwell, on Wednesday morning. Certificates were put in that Needell appeared to be labouring under mental delusion, and that Chatterton was too ill to attend. The prisoner was remanded.

MRI. JOHN PARSON, the chairman of the Metropolitan Railway Company, has, it is stated, been summoned before the Court of Chancery to show cause why he should not be committed for contempt of court for declaring a dividend at the rate of 5*1/2* per cent per annum in face of the recent judgment of Vice-Chancellor Wood.

AN EXPLORING EXPEDITION on the north coast of Australia, under Captain Caddell, has discovered a noble river, with a good pastoral country on its banks; also a fine haven, with an area of some fifty square miles; and on a part of the coast hitherto represented as dry land they sailed up a deep bay twenty miles in length by ten in breadth, with three large rivers emptying themselves into it.

OVER THE GRAVE OF ALEXANDER SMITH, in the Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh, there has recently been erected an iron or West Highland cross, of Binny stone, 12ft. in height, and set in a massive square base. In the centre of the shaft is a bronze medallion of the poet, by Mr. W. Brodie, R.S.A. Above it is the inscription "Alexander Smith, Poet and Essayist," and below are the places and dates of his birth and death.

SIR RODERICK MURCHISON announced on Monday night, at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, that the Admiralty had rewarded Mr. Young, the leader of the Livingstone search expedition, by promoting him to the rank of gunner of the first class, giving him an appointment as naval chief officer in the Coastguard, and presenting him with £500.

GOVERNMENT have received an official letter, placing it beyond all doubt, on the highest possible authority, that the money which Mr. Rassam was charged with improperly receiving from King Theodore was at once credited by him to the State, and duly entered as such in his public accounts, with a memorandum setting forth that 6800 dollars were taken back by the King when Mr. Rassam and his comrades were imprisoned.

ONE OF THE ARTILLERY SOLDIERS, named Hickey, who was in charge of the martello tower in Cork harbour when the Fenian party attacked it in December, has been tried by court-martial, convicted of disobedience to orders and neglect of duty, and sentenced to eighty-four days' imprisonment, with hard labour. This finding and sentence has been circulated to officers commanding regiments in Ireland for the purpose of its being generally made known.

MRI. JOHN HOWARD MANN, aged twenty-seven years, son of Dr. Mann, of Charterhouse-square, and town traveller to Messrs. Walters and Sons, silk manufacturers, of Newgate-street, has met his death in a shocking manner. He was addicted to sleepwalking, and one night about three weeks ago, when he was sleeping at his employers' house, he got up, went out of the widow on to the leads and fell through a skylight. The injuries resulting caused his death.

SIXTY YEARS AGO there was hardly a Jewish convert to Christianity in Great Britain. Now there are twenty thousand converts on the Continent and three thousand in England, of whom one hundred are clergymen in the Church of England. In the University of Berlin twenty-eight of the professors are converted Jews.

THE COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS FROM AMERICA continue to show an extraordinary falling off in the trade with this and other countries, the value of the goods imported at New York in January having been only about £1,910,000, against £2,990,000 in the same month of last year, and £3,600,000 in £1,866. The exportation of gold, however, has been £1,400,000, against £600,000 in each January of the two preceding years.

MRI. DIGBY SEYMOUR and a large delegation left the Irish address to the Queen at the Home Office on Tuesday. It numbers 22,693 signatures, and is tied with green ribbon. Mr. Hardy took it in; a quite exceptional act, for such things are generally left with the porter. He thanked Mr. Seymour and his friends for the moral assistance they were offering to the Government. The public will thank Mr. Seymour too; anybody's moral assistance is welcome in these times.

BIGANDAGE seems to be flourishing in the provinces of Frosinone and Velletri. A correspondent, writing on the 6th, says:—"I have before me a note, written by the leader of a band which infests the wood of Falola, in the neighbourhood of Velletri, to a country dealer, who is ordered to bring to him 300 crowns in gold, two pairs of hoots, ten shirts of fine linen, four bottles of Rosolio, and two of old rum, being threatened otherwise with death. This brigand-like demand was punctually satisfied. The brigands are beginning to kill the cattle again of those who refuse to yield to their exactions."

MRI. DAVID BROWN, gas manager at Criffield, has "mysteriously disappeared." Mr. Brown had felt unwell for some days, and last Saturday he got a small quantity of laudanum to make him sleep. Between five and six o'clock on Sunday morning his aunt went to his bed-room to see how he was sleeping, but to her surprise she found that her nephew was not there. Immediately afterwards it was discovered that Mr. Brown had left his room by a front window, and had taken with him some books and the bottle containing the laudanum, but had left his watch on a table. Nothing has yet been heard of him.

## PARIS GOSSIP.

SINCE I last wrote, the press bill has been the absorbing political subject. Nothing can be more animated—I might almost say impassioned—than the debates in the Chamber. It is impossible to foretell what the measure may be when turned out into a complete Act from the legislative mill; the only provision already certain is, that anybody will henceforth be able to start a paper without leave first had. The questions now in discussion are whether journals so started shall be allowed to live—for instance, what amount of stamp duty should be exacted, and whether equally from all or not; and what the maximum of fines for political press offences; the suppression of printing licenses, and others of a like character. These are vital points. The caution money which every paper must lodge before being brought out is, in Paris, £2000; in the provinces a great deal less; and what are termed mere literary journals give no deposit at all. The latter need not be stamped, but in the capital political organs are to pay 5c. (or a halfpenny) duty, and in the provinces 3c. On this clause the Opposition has carried an amendment for a reduction, which has been referred back to the Committee; but, as to the fines, they may for a single offence—and offences are left to be decided in the breast of the Judge (not jury)—amount to £3200. The clause was vehemently opposed, as opening the door to confiscation, but it was carried by a large majority.

If you would like to know the real object of the legislator—who is, in fact, the Emperor—in all these so-called fiscal arrangements, termed by one Minister "the impost of consumption" and by another "the impost of compensation," and of these heavy fines for political offences by the press, I can tell you; for it appears as clear as light by the debates: it is to curb, and if necessary to repress, free political discussion in the Paris newspapers. To do so may be wise and necessary, or it may not; but, at any rate, it is so, and I cannot say that the history of France for the last seventy years condemns the proceeding.

Marshal Niel has been prompt to act on powers given by the new Army Act. Instructions have been issued by the War Office to get the National Mobile Guard called out this month, and the active army contingent of 100,000 men is also called for. In the prescriptions respecting the latter there is nothing altered, but at least 95 per cent will be had, and in a couple of months every man between twenty and twenty-five in France capable of bearing arms will be under the flag or under drill. There is considerable activity at Toulon in bringing back a portion of the Ronan expeditionary force, and I believe everything is in a state of preparedness there to embark a strong corps to the Levant, should the intrigues of the Czar, the King of Greece, the Prince of Serbia, and ho of the Principalities, end in once more setting fire to the Eastern question. The Imperial Court and the entire of the political notabilities are continuing their round of dinners, concerts, receptions, and balls. The Jenkinses of the Paris press, this being the height of their, as well as of the fashionable, season, have to register among other things the loveliness of the women and the freshness of the dresses. As I had not the honour of an invitation, I cannot say I saw what I here describe; but no doubt it is quite accurate. I could not think, at any rate, of withholding it from your fair readers. At the last ball at the Tuilleries I am told, the Empress—whom I saw in the Bois de Boulogne a day or two before, looking extremely ill—was attired in a robe of green crape, with garlands of periwinkle flowers round the bottom skirt, with a blaze of diamonds on her head and neck, and, as usual, a brilliant bee on her fair forehead. Princess Metternich, plainly dressed, had an accident, for, on entering, one volant of her skirt was torn off by a naughty crochette of the door; but perhaps this was a provoked effect. *Qui sa?* One young lady, who was pretty, and therefore is to be forgiven, although ignorant of the *simples*

## Literature.

*The Wizard of the Mountain.* By WILLIAM GILBERT, Author of "Dr. Austin's Guests," &c. 2 vols. London: Strahan.

Certain qualities which have long since been admired in Mr. Gilbert's writings do him admirable service in the volumes before us. The language he uses is always plain and straightforward, and his style—if a delicate distinction may be drawn—is minute and circumstantial, without being necessarily tedious, that the strange things which he writes read like truth, whether the reader will or not. "The Wizard of the Mountain" is the general title for a series of ancient Lombardian tales of the times when chivalry, the plague, and general license had their sway in Northern Italy, and a little magic was by no means looked upon irreverently, despite the anathemas of the Church. The wizard, it may be as well to explain, is the connecting link between all the stories, which, however, have nothing else in common, although, indeed, some characters turn up more than once—a feature, again, which gives an air of vitality, since an altogether new character would have answered the purpose quite as well. The castle inhabited by the wizard—or the "Innominato," as he was called—is understood to have long since crumbled into dust, and the place to have been exorcised by the priests. But since belief in priests is nearly as much exploded as the belief in wizards, and since many people are still doubtful as to the final settlement of anything that once has been, or at least would wish to "try their luck" for themselves, we will give the exact site of the castle for the benefit of such romantic and travelling sceptics who may wish to pay it a visit. If you plant yourself at the centre of the base of the triangle which is formed by the high road running from Como to Lecco in the south, while the sides stretching upwards terminate at the apex formed at Bellagio in the north, and then wander a little distance eastward of Lecco, and ask the way, why, the thing is done. But, as it seems absolutely certain that you will not understand the patois of the peasants, the journey may be found not only dangerous but difficult. Mr. Gilbert, however, is not one to be daunted by difficulties and dangers. His adventurous spirit carried him on to the ruins; and, his interest awakened, he gathered from all kinds of sources, but principally from traditions cherished by oldest inhabitants, the series of legends of the famous wizard, or Innominato, to which he now gives an English dress. It is but fair to say that the priest who collected them thought that there was so much that was false mixed up with what might have been true, as to render them of little or no value; and it is also as well to know that this same priest was "rather an eccentric character, and occasionally it was exceedingly difficult to know if he was in jest or in earnest." The reader may be left to judge. For ourselves, it matters nothing whatever whether the balance of jest and earnest rests with the Italian priest or the English novelist. We are sufficiently satisfied to have a number of remarkably good stories, never dull nor too long; always interesting—nay, fascinating; and told with the artistic skill already described. At times they have much of that grotesque playfulness and quaintness to be met with in the "Decameron"; and sometimes there is a poetic ingenuity displayed in the magical passages which irresistibly suggest "The Arabian Nights." The wizard is ultimately proved to have been a servant of the Prince of Darkness; but yet all his deeds seem to be done to some good end. He punishes the bad, whilst seeming to accomplish for them their wishes; whilst those who are simply the momentary slaves of folly, are cured by having their follies gratified for a time, with final permission for them to be "as they were." Thus the brutal robber lord who would seize the village beauty, at last gains her hand in marriage. But his violence has killed her months before, and she sucks his life's blood from out his jugular vein, as is the custom of injured corse-vampires raised from the grave to marry noble freebooters. An aged couple, who would be young again, are accommodated in another fashion. The husband retains his aged appearance, but has all the gay and frolicsome appearance of a youth; whilst the wife is made to look like sweet seventeen, and to have all the want of taste and of inclination of grave severity. Their adventures are most ludicrous, until they mutually agree to avail themselves of the wizard's permission, and become once more a sensible and respected old couple. It would be difficult to select for especial praise any one of these ten or twelve stories. All will be generally liked. Keats would have made a perfect poem of "The Physician's Daughter;" Le Sage would not have scorned the humour and irony of "Don Bucefalo and the Curate;" and we believe that all the others would, if they had had the chance, have formed worthy portions of collections of tales now held to be almost inimitable. This is saying very much, indeed; but there is no more exaggeration in the praise than is usually given at the first blush of a great gratification.

*Lilla's Relations.* By HENRIETTA. London: T. and C. Mozley. "Lilla's Relations" is a little story for girls, which certainly comes late in the season for making presents. But there are occasions all round the year, besides Christmas, and Henrietta must share the common chance. Henrietta gives us a girl's view of girls; and generally in the most orderly and proper manner possible. To be sure, Lilla is a little wayward, occasionally unladylike; but she has been brought up entirely by a widowed father, a Devonshire clergyman, without any society save that of some old college friends of papa. When she meets her relations, nearly all feminine, the contrasts show up; but still the women seem to have "no character at all," and much the same may be said of the men. As far as the story goes, we may leave it alone, confident that the details of country and town life, of Paris and Fontainebleau, will interest young ladies who have as yet only dreamed of coming out, and to whom village school teaching is more natural than ball-room flirtation and dancing. There is a real sick-room atmosphere all through the book, which is depressing and unnecessary. There is always somebody ill, and nothing comes of it save the conversion and death of one giddy girl. When Charles falls over the cat and breaks his arm, Lilla inquires if the cat is hurt; and elsewhere, on a more important subject, Henrietta speaks of a girl who will look after young men in a manner that sets well-meaning Mrs. Skeat at utter defiance.

*Natural Philosophy, Popularly Explained.* By the Rev. S. HAUGHTON, M.D., F.R.S. With numerous Illustrations. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

This is a very clear exposition of the Elements of Natural Philosophy, from which a student with little assistance, provided he has a certain amount of knowledge in his head, and a head that desires to hold a little more knowledge, may easily and pleasantly make himself master of the great things which govern the world, if one or two Emperors will permit the use of that expression. The chapters are eight in number, comprising Statics, Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, Dynamics, Hydrodynamics, Acoustics, Light, and Heat. There are juveniles who will probably blunder over some of these hard words; but they must not despair. Mr. Haughton puts everything into good English, and almost every page is rendered as "plain as daylight" by a wood engraving which ought to leave but little chance of doubt or mistake.

*Wholesome Fare; or, the Doctor and the Cook. A Manual of the Laws of Food and the Practice of Cookery, embodying the best Receipts for British and Continental Cookery, with Hints and Receipts for the Sedentary, the Sick, and the Convalescent.* By EDMUND S. and ELLEN J. DELAMERE. London: Lockwood and Co.

Some readers may think the above a somewhat prolix title for a book on cookery; but then the subject embraced is a large one—nothing less than the philosophy of food and of its preparation, together with practical details; and the book itself is a big book. So book, matter, and title are in keeping with each other. Many persons deem cookery-books dry reading—indeed, fit only for reference

in the kitchen. And perhaps this may be true of some cookery books, but not when the subject is treated in the style in which the authors of the present volume handle their theme. We doubt if anything can be of greater importance to the physical well-being of men than to know what is "wholesome fare," and how food can be so prepared as to be pleasant to the palate and yet continue wholesome to the stomach. Every one must have felt—especially after having reached a certain period of life—how much the comfort of existence depends on the state of the stomach, and how that, again, depends on the food consumed. When the digestive organs are disordered everything is out of joint with us, and it is no easy matter to get matters set right again. Those, therefore, who furnish wholesome counsel on so vital a matter are clearly to be ranked among the benefactors of their race. And this is what the authors of this book have endeavoured to do, and with considerable success. If they have not accomplished all they aimed at—and to do that is rarely vouchsafed to either man or woman, or even, as in this instance, to both combined—Edmund and Ellen Delamere have, at least, taken the right road, and have gone a long way towards reaching the goal. Their book treats of the properties and relative value of different kinds of food, of the hygienic effects of cookery, of the comparative excellence and defects of French and English dishes, of American and German methods of cooking, as well as of many other points of importance to the taste, the health, and the pocket. And they have handled all these matters in a popular and, as far as possible, interesting manner. To the philosophy of cookery there are added practical receipts and plain directions for preparing every description of food, the whole being printed in large, clear, legible type, and accompanied by a convenient index. Altogether, this is one of the best books on the subject that we have met with. It will be equally welcome to the gastronomic student and to the director of domestic culinary operations.

*Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.* Illustrated by the late C. H. Bennett, with Forty-four Plates and upwards of Eighty Woodcuts. London: Bradbury, Evans, and Co.

This is a very beautiful reissue of the "Pilgrim's Progress," as illustrated by the late Mr. C. H. Bennett. The plates and woodcuts have been kindly presented by Messrs. Longmans and Co., and the profits of this edition are to be devoted to the benefit of the artist's family, for whose sake, as well as for that of purchasers, we wish the book a large sale. The volume will be really very handsome, for it is beautifully printed on fine-toned paper, with coloured marginal lines and other ornaments; and it will be cheap, for it is to be completed in seventeen monthly shilling parts. Parts I. and II. are already published.

*The Art of Wood-Carving: Practical Hints to Amateurs, and a Short History of the Art.* By GEORGE ALFRED ROGERS, Artist on Wood to the Queen and Professor at the Crystal Palace School of Art. Author of "Some Account of the Wood-Carvings of St. Michael's Church, Cornhill." London: Virtue and Co.

*Original Designs for Wood-Carving: With Practical Instructions in the Art.* By A. F. B. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.

Both these books have the same object in view—namely, to instruct amateurs in the art of wood-carving, and both, we should think, are well calculated to subserve their purpose. There are always in society a certain number of men and women who have no particular business to attend to, and who yet stand in need of "something to do;" and probably no form of "elegant trifling" could afford a more pleasing, and at the same time absolutely harmless, occupation than practising wood-carving. To those persons Mr. Rogers offers instructions as to tools, and designs for practice, which will no doubt be useful to amateurs of "my profession," as the author calls the wood-carver's art. A. F. B. aims at something more than this, for he supplies designs to "artists in wood who are not sufficiently skilful draughtsmen to originate their own designs." We have no doubt the labours of both gentlemen—that is, supposing A. F. B. to be a gentleman—will be serviceable; and we wish them every success in their efforts to disseminate a taste for a very elegant branch of art.

*Pigeons: their Structure, Varieties, Habits, and Management.* By W. B. TEGETMEIER, F.S.A., Author of "The Poultry-Book," With illustrations by Harrison Weir. London: Routledge and Sons.

The names of all the individuals concerned in getting up this book are guarantees of its excellence: the author is Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, the illustrator is Mr. Harrison Weir, and the printers are Leighton Brothers. Mr. Tegetmeier has long been known as a diligent student of the natural history of the feathered tribes, and has already given to the world several works on his favourite theme. The skill of Mr. Harrison Weir in delineating the animal world is second to that of few artists of the day. His illustrations to this handsome volume have been drawn and coloured from life, and are singularly true to life, for the artist's designs have been reproduced in brilliant but well-toned hues by the printers. In the text we have a very full account of the pigeon, beginning with the structure, and describing the origin of the different varieties. The chapters on management will be especially useful to those who keep, or are about to keep, pigeons. Besides being carefully written and beautifully illustrated and printed, this volume is handsomely bound, and is at once a very ornamental and most useful work. By-the-by, we may as well mention that Mr. Tegetmeier, while awaiting himself of some of the observations made by Dr. Darwin, does not enter into the controversy produced by that learned writer's theories as to the origin and development of species.

*Beeton's Dictionary of Geography: a Universal Gazetteer.* London: Ward, Lock, and Tyler.

Beeton's dictionaries are now pretty well known as useful books. The "Dictionary of Universal Information" and the "Dictionary of Universal Biography" have been before the public for several years, and have taken a good place as books of reference. To these Mr. Beeton is now adding, uniform with them in plan and "get-up," a "Dictionary of Geography," which promises to be equally useful. It is to contain upwards of 12,000 distinct and completed articles; it is to be illustrated by coloured maps, ancient, modern, and biblical, with 1000 engravings of the principal cities of the world, English county towns, the strong places of the earth, courses of the principal rivers, and localities of general interest. It is moreover, printed in a clear though necessarily small type; each part contains eighty pages, price only sixpence; and the whole work is to be completed in from twelve to fourteen monthly parts; so that for six or seven shillings a complete universal gazetteer, with (we presume) all the latest information, may be obtained. The first two parts have appeared, and contain maps of Abyssinia, Asia Minor, and Africa, with numerous illustrations of places of interest and importance, such as Auckland (New Zealand), Augsburg, Ayr, the Bass Rock, Berlin, &c.

*Henry Holbeach, Student in Life and Philosophy; a Narrative and a Discussion.* Second Edition. London: Alexander Strahan.

This is the second edition of a work, full of original and striking views, which was noticed in these columns on its first appearance. Since then the author, as was not unnatural, has had something of a controversy added to his "narrative and discussion," and has prefaced this edition by a "restatement of the case," which will add much to the value of the work, which we again recommend to the attention of thinkers, while still claiming the privilege of differing from some of Mr. Holbeach's opinions. But, whether agreeing with the author or not, every reader will find new trains of thought suggested to his mind, and cannot fail to admire the sincerity, frankness, and genial spirit that pervades the work.

**MR. LOWE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.**

The following answer has been given by Mr. Lowe to an address from 250 graduates of the University of London:—

"34, Lowndes-square, Feb. 10.

"Gentlemen,—I receive with pleasure and gratitude the request from so many distinguished graduates that I should offer myself as a candidate for the honour of representing the University of London in Parliament.

"As the University was founded on Liberal principles by Liberal men, and is the truest and fullest expression yet attained of all that is free, progressive, and unsectarian in education, the person who aspires to represent it ought, in my judgment, to hold thoroughly Liberal opinions, and be a member of the party to which the University owes its existence. In ordinary times I should have thought it sufficient to refer you to my votes and speeches during the fifteen years which comprise my Parliamentary life, and to my labours on many Royal Commissions and on Select Committees. I have ever striven, to the best of my ability, to reform our law by bringing it within the principles of enlightened jurisprudence, to abolish all distinctions and disabilities founded on religious belief, to keep our practice in strict conformity with the principles of political economy, to substitute merit for patronage as a means of entering and rising in the public service, to promote the education of all classes, to enforce economy in the public expenditure, and to restrict the interference of the State within narrow and definite limits, so as to leave the utmost scope, consistent with order and good government, to private enterprise and discretion. I may mention, among other measures which I have carried through the House of Commons, the Joint-stock Companies Act of 1856, the Act for giving permanence to the medical department of the Privy Council, the enlargement of the powers of the Charity Commission, and the change in the minutes of education known as the Revised Code.

"But the political conjuncture is so singular, and the state of parties so disorganized, that it may be advisable to say something definite on the present and future as well, as the past. I dissent from the policy of the Liberal party on the Parliamentary franchise because I thought, and still think, that really liberal and enlightened measures and administration were more likely to be attained under the old than under the new constituencies. The question is decided; argument is at an end, and we wait the teaching of experience. I hope events may prove me to be wrong, and have no wish to revive the controversy. Our duty is, without loss of time, to adapt ourselves to the great change that has taken place. We must expect a much greater demand for equality than heretofore, and ought to pass our institutions in review—modifying such things as seem likely to wound this feeling, and founding ourselves upon principles which will bear the test of discussion in a democratic assembly.

"The redistribution of seats is forced upon us by the change in the franchise, since what has been already done is quite inadequate to bring these two parts of the measure into harmony with each other; I voted last year for a larger disfranchisement of small boroughs, and shall be prepared to do so again.

"I dissent from the destructive Conservatism which would keep the House of Lords just as it is, and would gladly see that House enabled better to resist pressure, by being placed more on the footing of a senate where distinguished merit might find a place beside rank and wealth. It is not safe to stake everything on a vote of a single Chamber.

"I view the revenues of the so-called Church of Ireland as the property of the State, the appropriation of which may properly be changed, with a due respect for vested interests; and the Church itself as an unjust institution, irritating to Ireland, and discreditable to us in the eyes of foreign nations. I wish to preserve mixed education in Ireland intact, and for all other students than those in the Queen's Colleges to found a University in Ireland similar to our own.

"Several Parliamentary investigations of the state of Ireland in which I have been engaged, while they have thoroughly impressed upon me the vast imperial importance of appeasing her discontent and promoting her prosperity, have also taught me that the evils of Ireland are mainly social, theological, and economical. They cannot be remedied, and may easily be aggravated by legislative interference with contracts between private parties acting with full knowledge.

"The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge ought, I think, to be governed by such graduates as are concerned with their teaching and discipline. The Universities and all collegiate endowments should be open to all persons without religious test, and without requiring them to be members of any college or hall. The colleges should enjoy full powers of legislation and self-government, and should contribute from their revenues whatever may be required to give the Universities more teaching power and a more complete and efficient staff of professors.

"The time has come when, if we wish to be well governed at home, or respected abroad, we must make education accessible to all. This can be done without any immediate destruction of the existing system by establishing secular schools, supported by rates wherever voluntary exertion fails.

"I have served for fourteen years as a commissioner for making a code of procedure and of substantive law for India, and the experience which I have gained in this way has taught me that it is both possible and expedient to reduce the law of England to a code, that the distinction between law and equity ought to be abolished, and that the law of real property ought, allowance being made for the difference in the subject matter, to be assimilated to the law of personal property. As a part of this position I have supported the bill for the division of the estates of intestate owners in fee simple, according to the Statute of Distributions. I do not wish to make this measure a stepping-stone to a compulsory division of land or to any restriction of the freedom of the owner to sell or settle it. My reason for supporting this measure is, that the law when it makes a will for a man should make a just will, and that it is not just to give all to one child, and leave the others, especially the female children, to starve.

"I am extremely anxious for peace, and therefore am opposed to a meddling diplomacy and to the delusive idea that the real strength of England can be increased by the forcible acquisition of territories imposing heavy burdens on her people, without giving men to her armies or taxes to her exchequer.

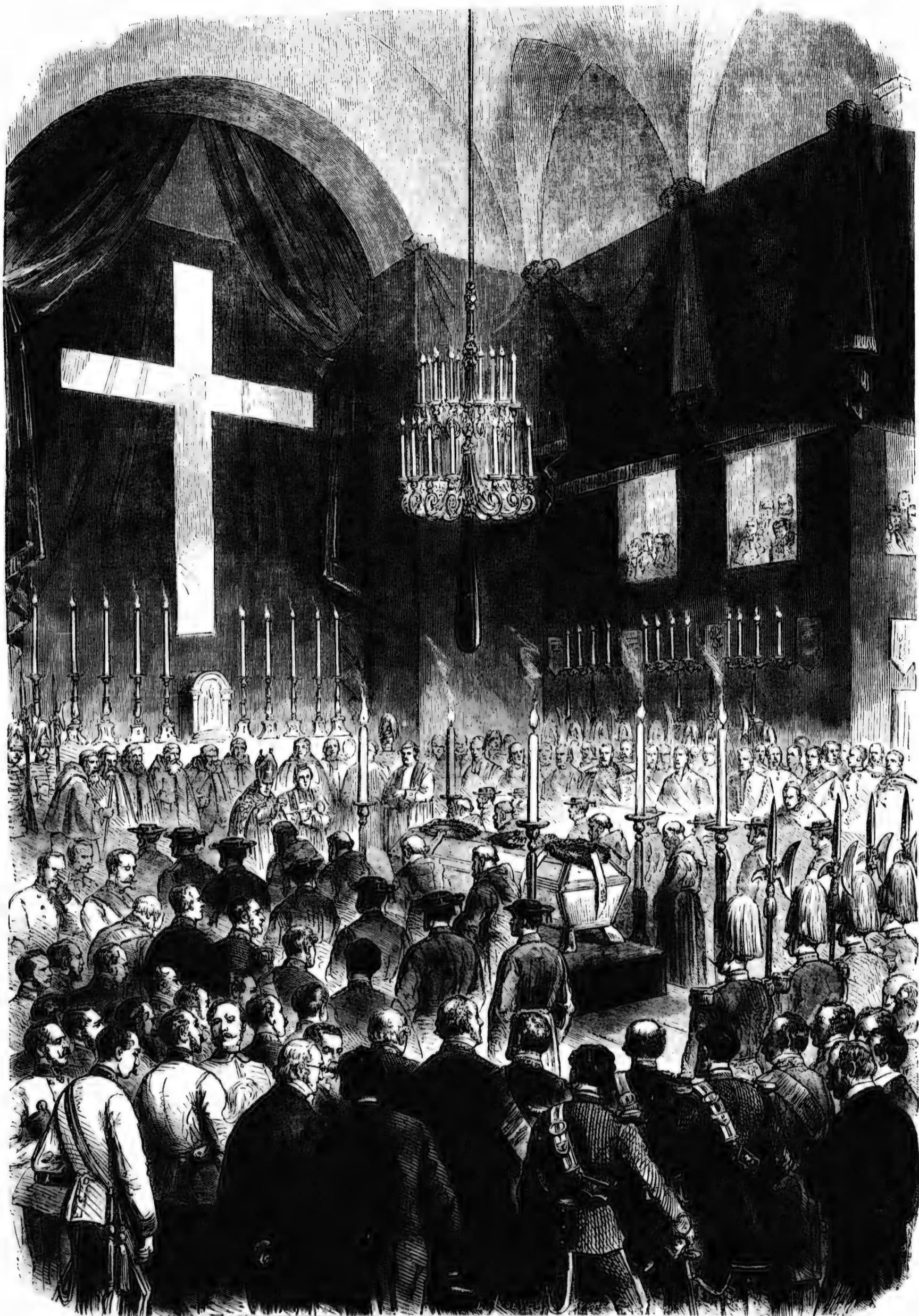
"Economy is little regarded in these days, but I believe extravagance to be doubly an evil, as a needless waste of the money of the people, and as the sure sign of inefficiency. The true way to save is not the cutting down of single items, but a more complete organisation of our departments, and the determination that for whatever the country spends it shall have full value in labour, talent, or materials. The Revised Code has saved us half a million a year, but it has been by making the department of education more efficient.

"I cannot expect that all these opinions will command your assent. I can only hope that they will appear to you on the whole not unsuited to one who aspires to the high honour of representing the University of London in Parliament.

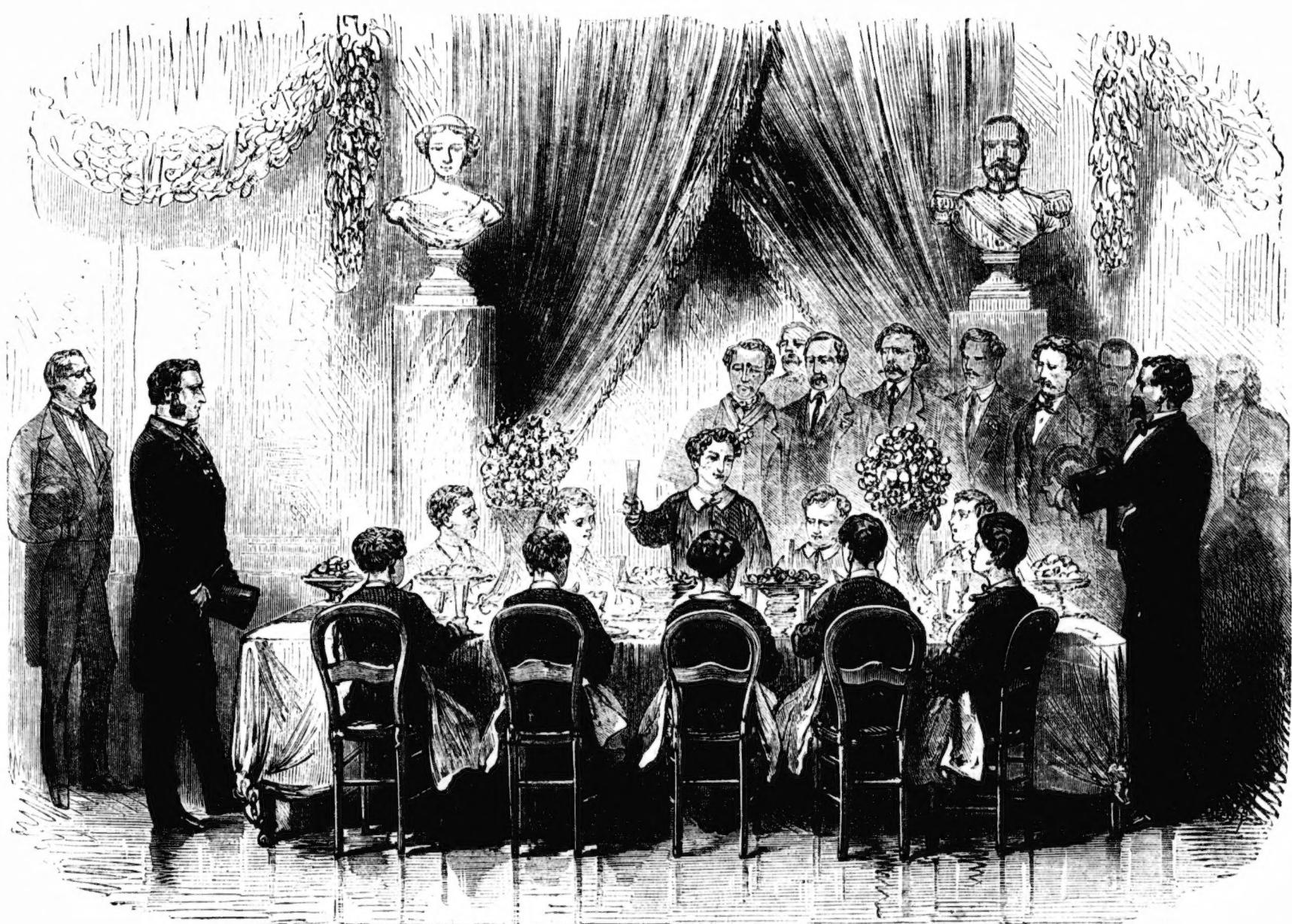
"I am, Gentlemen, your obliged and faithful Servant,

"ROBERT LOWE."

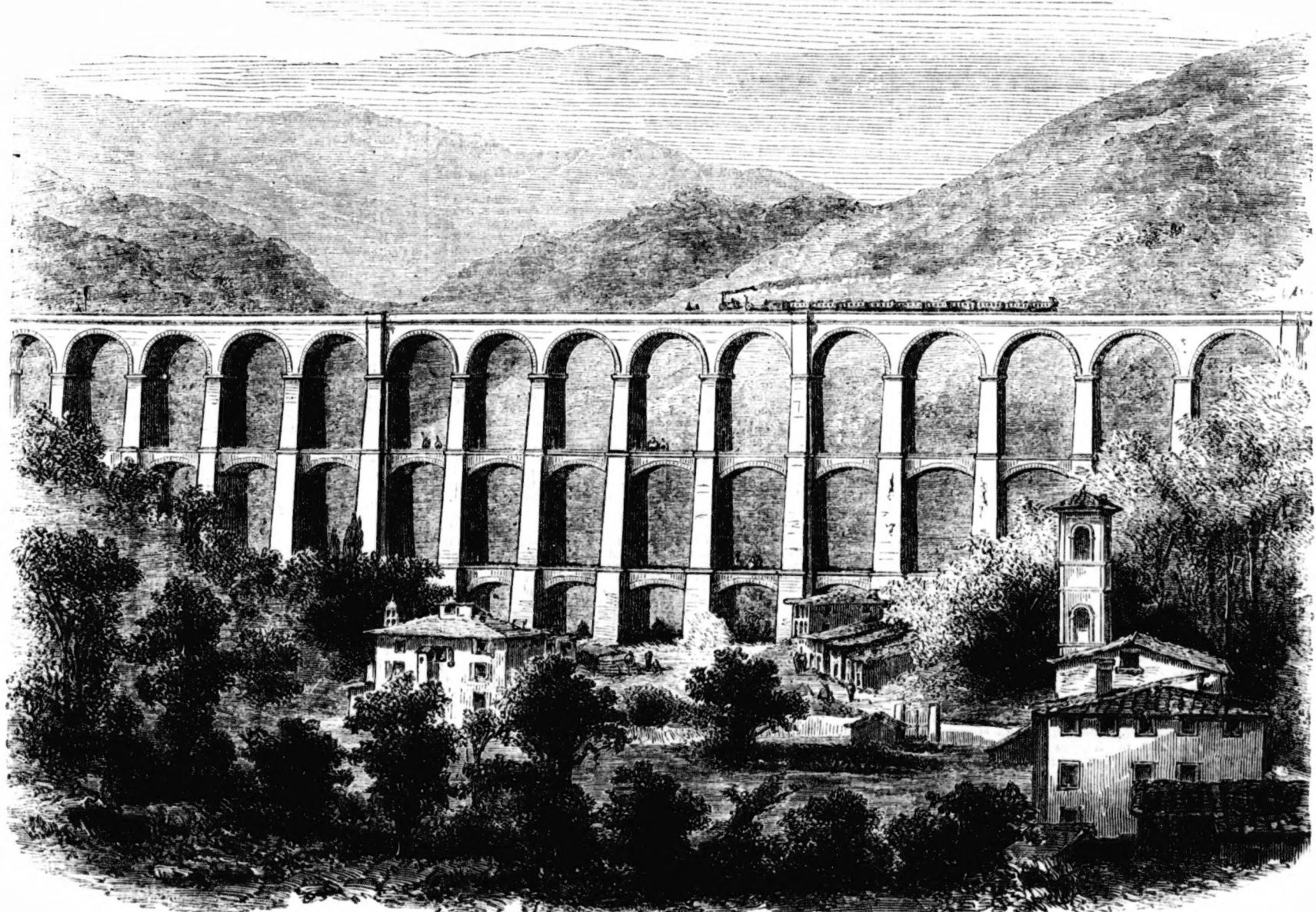
**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN AUSTRALIA.**—A melancholy accident is recorded to have marred the rejoicings at Sandhurst on the occasion of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the diggings in that locality. Among other modes of complimenting his Royal Highness, the people had, on the night of the illumination, provided a model of the Galatea, manned by little boys, which was wheeled through the streets at night. Its decks were partly occupied by fireworks. Amongst these a careless or mischievous bystander tossed a cracker; and accordingly the model blew up, burning the little crew so severely that three of them died shortly afterwards. When in the Ballarat districts his Royal Highness visited the celebrated Bend of Hope claim, and descended 450 ft. into the bowels of the earth, where he was conducted to the richest part of the mine, and knocked out for himself so many and such large nuggets that it has been suspected the loyalty of the directors contrived for his Royal Highness a Royal road to gold-digging on the occasion. Be this as it may, the Duke was delighted with his success, and has forwarded for the Queen's inspection a photograph of himself and his suite as they emerged, mud-stained, from their particularly successful adventure.



SERVICE FOR THE REST OF THE SOUL OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN IN THE CHURCH OF THE CAPUCHINS, VIENNA.



FESTIVAL OF ST. CHARLEMAGNE AT THE PARIS LYCÉE: THE PRINCE IMPERIAL PROPOSING A TOAST.



RAILWAY VIADUCT AT CASTAGNO, IN THE APENNINES, UPPER ITALY.

## OBSEQUIES OF THE LATE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN.

To the Engravings we have already published of the obsequies of the late Emperor of Mexico we now add an illustration showing the final ceremony of blessing the remains in the chapel of the Capuchins' Church, in Vienna. The Emperor of Austria acted as chief mourner on the occasion, and the members of the Imperial family and numerous high officials were present.

## BANQUET AT THE LYCEE BONAPARTE.—THE PRINCE IMPERIAL PROPOSING A TOAST.

The feast of St. Charlemagne has just been held at the Imperial Military School, the Lycee Bonaparte, with unusual splendour, in consequence of the presidency at the banquet of the Prince Imperial, who may be said to have won this distinction amongst his fellow-pupils by having taken two first-class prizes in Latin and arithmetic.

At ten o'clock the Prince arrived at the Lycee, accompanied by General Frossard, his governor; MM. Bachot and Ligniville, his equerries; and M. Filon, his private tutor. His Highness was received by M. Duruy, assisted by M. Charles Robert, secretary-general to the Minister of Public Instruction; by the director of the academy; and M. Legrand, the head master. The Prince first entered the apartments of the latter gentleman, a suite of rooms which had been magnificently decorated for the occasion; and thence passed to the banqueting-saloon, where his arrival was acknowledged by shouts and salvos of applause by his schoolfellows. He took his place at a select table, where covers were laid for ten, and the gentlemen who had received him remained standing, the whole party, including the Prince himself, appearing only in plain evening dress, that of his Highness consisting of a knickerbocker suit of black cloth. The company included about a hundred boys, and it is unnecessary to say that it was a jolly and not a remarkably quiet party. The Emperor had sent a hundred bottles of champagne, as well as an immense quantity of pheasants, hares, and partridges. M. Duruy proposed the health of the Emperor, and M. Legrand made an effective and sympathetic speech, amidst thunders of applause. After this a scholar of fourteen years old, M. Cornudet, proposed the health of the Prince; and, in reply, his Highness drank to the health of the head master and to the prosperity of the Lycee Bonaparte. The banqueting-saloon was a very pretty sight, and the music of clinking knives and forks, and the youthful voices of a hundred laughing boys, was a very appropriate accompaniment to the spectacle.

## VIADUCT OF THE NEW ITALIAN RAILWAY AT CASTAGNO.

ANYONE who has travelled in Italy during the last two or three years cannot have failed to admire that marvellous passage of the Appennines which unites the provinces of the north of the peninsula with those of the centre—that is to say, the plain of the Po, which ends at Bologna, with the plain of the Arno, which commences at Pistoia. Few countries, at least, amongst those which have largely adopted railways, offer within so limited an area so many natural difficulties to the efforts of the engineer.

From Bologna to Pistoia the iron way is constructed over a length of about seventy miles, while the real distance is only about fifty miles. The level of the two towns—that is to say, of the two plains on which the Appennines rest—are of a different height above the sea, Pistoia being considerably higher than Bologna. The culminating point is marked by the station of Pracchia; and, in order to reach the passage between the two declivities, the railway describes curves which are at various inclinations, while bridges follow viaducts, and tunnels follow cuttings, throughout the whole length of the line. There are forty-five tunnels, which occupy a fourth part of the entire journey; and the river Reno, whose meanderings descend the Appenine towards Bologna, is crossed and recrossed about twenty times. There are, beside the forty-five tunnels, thirty bridges and eight considerable viaducts, amongst which are some on the curvilinear plan, with many hundreds of yards of length and three tiers of superposed arches. The line from Bologna to Pistoia, which belongs to the company of Upper Italy, has been constructed from the plans and under the direction of M. Protche, the engineer, who has been assisted in this arduous work by his colleagues Messrs. Sieben and Petit.

The region through which the line passes is one, perhaps, full of the most picturesque beauty of this lovely land. On leaving Bologna, one turns from a long amphitheatre of hills forming the first ramparts of the Appennines and crosses a bridge with innumerable arches spanning the vast bed of the Reno, which, after having descended from the mountains in a torrent, spreads itself out into a calm, broad stream in the great plain below. There are many signs of former inundations, and the traveller has scarcely time to note the picturesque consequences of these before he is entangled in the "valleys of the mountains." Sasso, which is the name of the second station, signifies rock, and we come upon rocks indeed—gigantic pillars of the Appenine gates, through which the trains glide. We may observe in passing that these calcareous masses, with uniform and perpendicular faces, are here and there pierced with doors and windows. There are, in fact, numbers of houses cut out of the solid rocks, and occupied by modern Troglodytes. Long after having crossed the Reno we wind along with it on its course, and at every turning there is a torrent or a rill gushing from the mountains to swell its main stream; while in winter or early spring the cascades leap across fallen trees or banks of earth and stone in showers which will vanish before the hot sun of summer. As we rattle along we see that the flying peaks of the hills are crowned with vegetation, bright and varied in hue; oaks, chestnuts, and holms, with their undying foliage, make the mountain brows bright with colour, while they are also surrounded with natural prairies, where the tender green reflects the shadows of their more sombre plumes. At the barricades which here and there cross the line sheep and oxen wait to pass from one plain to another; flocks of sheep and goats graze at the foot of the mountain or drink at the brooks which feed the river. Houses are few and far between, and the sparsely scattered villages are but cottages huddled together at the bottoms of the valleys. On the hills there are only to be seen solitary huts, which serve as shelters for the shepherds during the summer heats. La Porretta is the most considerable station on the line. It was formerly the last village of the Romans towards the Tuscan frontier, and possesses mineral waters which have made it famous in the country. From the same rocks, whence flow these waters, there escape abundant jets of carburetted hydrogen gas, so powerful that on applying a cigar light to one of them it will burn like a miniature volcano; and it is interesting to learn that, long before the adoption of our own system of lighting towns, Porretta was illuminated from the inexhaustible reservoir of the mountains. A bootmaker of the name of Spiga was the author of this application; but it has now been discontinued, as it is believed that this consumption of the gas robs the water of the element that renders it most valuable. These waters are especially useful in the cure of diseases of the skin, and it is said that the discovery of their medicinal properties was owing to a remarkable accident. A peasant possessed an ox which was so much diseased that even his skin was worthless, and so he set it free, and left it to go where it would amongst the mountains. Some time afterwards he happened to meet with his beast in the neighbourhood of these springs; but, like the celebrated jackdaw of Rheims after the removal of the Cardinal's ban, the animal was so changed as to be almost beyond recognition. The peasant left him there, and after a few more days saw him again drinking at one of the springs, the waters of which had before that time been declared to be noxious. Being a fellow of reflection, the man connected the improved condition of the beast with this fact, and the experience of succeeding years has proved that he came to a judicious conclusion. The network of the line along which we have been passing virtually terminates at Pistoia, where it will be connected with the Roman railways, a combination demanded by the administration of the Government, in conformity with their regional scheme.

## OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. LESLIE'S concerts have lost the exclusively choral character which at one time marked them, and are now no longer announced expressly in connection with his celebrated choir. The series for the present year includes eight subscription concerts and one extra concert. Out of these nine, two, as of old, are to consist entirely, or almost entirely, of madrigals and part-songs; while the other seven are of the philharmonic pattern, with a deviation in favour of works in which the chorus plays a specially important part.

The music composed by Mendelssohn twenty-two years ago for the "Edipus Colonens" of Sophocles, which, though not absolutely new, is by no means so familiar to English audiences as the "Antigone" and "Athalia" music, has now been once more brought forward by Mr. Leslie, at whose opening concert it formed the chief attraction. The choruses of the "Edipus" were admirably sung. The quartet for solo voices (Messrs. Cummings, Walker, Henry, and Thomas) was also particularly effective, and the whole work produced a deep impression, which was not diminished (as in such performances is too often the case) by the manner in which the spoken words were delivered. The pianoforte music (Weber's concertstück and Beethoven's choral fantasia) was played with spirit and effect by Herr Pauer, in place of Mdme. Arabella Goddard, who, we regret to hear, is still suffering from indisposition. Of the detached vocal pieces, the most successful was Handel's "Haste thee, nymph," which Mr. Lewis Thomas, well supported by the chorus, gave with admirable vigour. Miss Chiarier had previously sung, with much brilliancy, the grand air from Gluck's "Elena e Paride;" and Mr. Cummings had shown that he was capable of doing justice to a piece which demands so much both in expression and in execution as the ever-welcome "Il mio tesoro."

Mr. Barnett, a young musician who has gained equal distinction as a composer and as a performer on the pianoforte, gave more than ordinary interest to his annual concert, held on Wednesday night, at St. James's Hall, by including in the programme his cantata of the "Ancient Mariner." This work, as musical readers will scarcely require to be told, was composed for the last Birmingham Festival, where it was performed with considerable success, the principal parts being sustained by Mdles. Titiens, Mdme. Patey-Whytock, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley. On Wednesday night the cast was altogether different. Mr. George Perren was the tenor, Mr. Renwick the baritone, while the soprano and contralto parts were intrusted to Mdles. Clara and Rosamunda Doria, who preceded by a great reputation acquired in Italy, made on this occasion, their first appearance in England. The cantata was less perfectly executed perhaps than at Birmingham, but fairly and effectively nevertheless. The orchestra, under the direction of the composer, included most of the leading players in London, and the members of the chorus had been chosen from our best amateur societies. Whether the "Ancient Mariner" is a work adapted for musical setting is a question that may still be discussed. But, however it may be decided, the fact remains that Mr. Barnett has set it, that his setting has found numerous admirers, and that on Wednesday night no less than four pieces were encored. Among this number was the duet for soprano and contralto ("But tell me, tell me! speak again!"), the success of which was owing in a considerable degree to the style in which it was sung by the sisters Doria. The second part of the concert began with Mendelssohn's concerto in G minor, brilliantly executed by the concert-giver. Then Mdle. Rosamunda Doria sang the grand air, "O mon fils," from "Le Prophete;" and Mdle. Clara Doria the bolero from "Les Vepres Siciliennes." The two débutantes were next heard in the duet from "Maria Padilla," which was much applauded; and a spirited performance of Weber's overture, "The Ruler of the Spirits," brought the entertainment to a conclusion.

We learn from Copenhagen that Mr. George Bentham, a young and gifted English tenor, well known in London musical circles—who has been studying in Italy for the last two years—made his début, on Monday, Jan. 27, in the opera of "Rigoletto." Our correspondent reports that Mr. Bentham achieved a most brilliant success. Mr. Bentham made his first appearance in public, last year, at Novara. With these fresh laurels, we may with confidence predict a brilliant future for this promising young artist.

SERENADE TO ROSSINI.—At a serenade given to Rossini in Paris a few nights since an immense crowd had collected, some in the neighbourhood of the house, and others inside, these latter only by tickets. Music-stands had been arranged in the courtyard, and the whole was covered with an awning. The orchestra first performed the overture to "Guillaume Tell," one of the finest introductions to any opera. Faure then sang his great air from the same work, and the grand chorus followed and concluded the performance. In one of the intervals Mdme. Rossini came down to the courtyard and expressed her thanks to the artists. Rossini himself, who has only just recovered from a rather severe illness, appeared twice at one of the windows and waved a friendly greeting. At the conclusion the principal artists ascended to the maestro's apartment and presented to him a crown of laurel-leaves in gold. Rossini, who was much affected, embraced them all, and promised to send to each a souvenir of the occasion.

EQUALISATION OF POOR RATES.—A meeting of ratepayers of northern and eastern metropolitan parishes was held, on Monday evening, in the Shoreditch Townhall, in Old-street-road, to consider the best means of obtaining an equalisation of metropolitan poor rates. The Rev. S. Evans, M.A., Vicar of Shoreditch, presided. Mr. Thomas Turner proposed, and the Rev. G. H. McGill seconded, the first resolution:—"That this meeting considers that the burden of the support of the poor is one that ought to be borne equally by all classes of the people in proportion to their means; and that the present system, by which an undue share of the burden is cast, with crushing effect, upon the poorest parishes and ratepayers, is impolitic and unjust; and therefore declares, that at least as far as the metropolis is concerned, an equalisation of the whole charge of the maintenance of the poor is an urgent necessity and a just demand." Mr. Samuda, M.P., supported the resolution, which was carried. The Rev. S. Hansard proposed, and Mr. Enoch Walker seconded:—"That, while acknowledging the large concession which the Act of 1866 made towards the admission of the principle of equalisation, this meeting reports that the practical relief it affords will be more than neutralised by the heavy charges for buildings and other purposes imposed on the poorer parishes under the Act." Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson and Mr. Ayrton, M.P., supported the resolution, which was carried. On the motion of Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Herbert, the following resolution was passed:—"That a deputation be appointed from this meeting to wait upon the Poor Law Board to urge the necessities of immediate action in this matter; and that the several boards of the guardians be invited to send representatives to such deputation, and that a petition to Parliament, in the spirit of the resolutions already passed, be presented from this meeting." A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

THE GREAT SHIP COMPANY.—The shareholders of the Great Ship Company held their meeting on Monday—Sir Daniel Gooch, M.P., in the chair. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said from the inability of the French company to carry out their engagements, an anti-explosion of the scheme ensued, which resulted in a large amount of litigation. He could not go into details, as many questions were now before the courts, and it was necessary at present to be silent on those matters. The French company had expended so much money that their capital became exhausted before the ship had had sufficient time to show whether the enterprise would succeed or not. They had expended £80,000 in fitting up the ship, the greater portion of which would be of no value to the company, although some of the outlay would be permanent. When the Abyssinian expedition was proposed, the directors offered the ship to the Government, but unfortunately she was not accepted. Although the accounts showed a balance of £6000, the directors could not advise a dividend on that occasion. He had no doubt that they had a fair claim on the French company; and, as the directors were wealthy men, they would succeed in obtaining it. With regard to the question of dividend, as the shareholders had got something like 70 per cent last year, he thought they could manage to go without dividend for some time to come. They had passed through an unfavourable period for such a ship last year. There were some schemes in abeyance for laying telegraphic cables, and he thought with the revival of trade the ship would be employed. He believed that she was the only ship suited for laying long lines of cable, and that the great success of the Atlantic cable would induce other cables to be laid to distant places. Until the ship was wanted they were at an expense of £70 a week, which was the utmost economy they could exercise in that respect, as they were obliged to keep a certain number of men on board, in case anything happened. The ship was insured against fire, all the apparatus was kept ready on board to extinguish fire, and they had always got steam up. Each shareholder could insure his individual risk if he pleased. Captain Sir James Anderson bore testimony to the many excellencies of the ship, and hoped future employment would be found for her in laying deep-sea cables. The report was adopted unanimously.

## FACTS AND FUN FROM THE POST OFFICE.

In an article on the history and doings of the Post Office establishment, the *Times* gives much interesting information. The number of letters, which in the year 1839 was estimated at 75,907,572, in the very first year of the reduced tariff increased to 168,768,344, and has gone on increasing without a check to the present time in higher ratio than the increase of the population. In the year 1865 the number of letters had risen to 724,460,000, when the books and chargeable newspapers, samples and patterns post, raised to a total of 818,990,000 articles carried within the year by the Post Office—a number which had probably increased by the end of the last year, the returns of which are not yet published—to the magnificent proportions of 1,000,000,000. The sample post, established in 1861, has been taken advantage of by merchants and tradesmen to a very large extent. In 1865 no less than 1,280,000 samples and patterns went by post. The majority of these samples consist of produce, such as tea, sugar, coffee, hops, seeds, corn, beans, &c.; but every conceivable article under the allowed weight, from mousetraps and clockworks to leeches and Pharaoh's serpents, now passes through the Post Office. These samples are sorted on the same counters with the letters, and their bulk, of course, is far greater. Attempts are made to burden this department with very odd articles—a limb for dissection not long since was discovered by its smell, and rejected. At times disturbing causes, like the following, alarm the office:—In 1859 the Sacred Harmonic Society and the Crystal Palace Company posted in one day, at the central office, 400,000 circulars; and while we were watching the process of sorting the other evening, 100,000 circulars came in as a disturbing element in the machinery of the office. But the most striking regular irregularity occurs on Feb. 13 and 14. Some people may imagine that St. Valentine's Day is only dear to children and nurserymaids, and that the amorous gush of correspondence that occurs on the anniversary of the saint is declining in these days of enlightenment. Alas! the gush is only becoming more impetuous. In the year 1865 there passed through the London post-offices, for town and country delivery, 897,960 valentines, and last year the number had increased to 1,199,142, giving a revenue to the Post Office of £11,242. Registered letters are always sent by themselves in a green bag. Every step of their progress is registered by the indorsement of the person through whose hands they may pass, and such is the security the public place in this method of transmitting money and articles of value that the number has increased from 1,965,000 in 1863 to 2,130,000 in 1864 to 2,232,000 in 1865, the last return that has been published. The irregular numbering of streets is a great cause of delay in delivering the letters. In some cases the four corner houses are sometimes called No. 1. Indeed, in some of the new streets there is no sequence at all in the numbers. The inspector of letter-carriers gives a very singular case in point. He says:—

On arriving at a house in the middle of a street, I observed a brass number—95—on the door, the houses on each side being numbered respectively 14 and 16. A woman came to the door, when I requested to be informed why 95 should appear between 14 and 16. She said it was the number of a house she formerly lived at in another street, and it (meaning the brass plate) being very good one, she thought it would do for her present residence as well as any other!

The returned-letter branch is the most singular and interesting. It will, perhaps, scarcely be credited that in 1865 12,000 letters were posted in Great Britain without any address; and these letters contained valuables, in the form of cheques, notes, and money, to the amount of £3700. On one occasion £5000 in notes was sent, improperly addressed, open at the ends, like a book-pocket. When an attempt has been made at an address, it is sometimes so vague as to create the most profound astonishment at the simplicity of the writer. Thus, not long since the "blind men" of this department, as the decipherers of illegible and imperfect addresses are termed, were fairly beaten by the Arcadian simplicity of the following superscription on a genuine letter containing a pair of spectacles:—

My dear Father in Yorkshire at the white cottage with green railings. Where it is possible, the "blind men" versed in the ways of ignorance, correct the address, and where the letters are to all outsiders totally "blind" these experts will make a shrewd guess, which often turns out to be a hit. Some years since a letter came thus addressed:—

Mr. Owl O'Neil,  
At the Postoffice.

The "blind man" into whose hands it fell surmised at once that this was a bit of phonetic spelling, and delivered it without hesitation to Sir Rowland Hill, its rightful owner.

Here is another lucid address for the postman:—

Mr. ——, Travelling Band, one of the Four playing in the street,  
Persha (Pershore),  
Worcestershire.

Please to find him if possible.

The following letter may have been written as an American joke; of course it failed to be delivered:—

To the Britisher most Ashamed of his Country,  
House of Commons,  
Westminster.

But the subjoined must be evidently a genuine epistle from Mrs. Gamp:—

E. R.—, a cook as lived tempry with a Mrs. L.— or some such a name, a shoemaker in Castle-street about No. 1 Hobart in 1851. Try to make this out. She is a Welch person about 5 feet 1 stoutish. Lives in service some ware in London or haboured. London.

In some cases a little badinage goes on outside the envelope; to wit, a letter was thus addressed:—

The biggest fool in the world,  
Tunbridge.

And indorsed as follows:—

The Postmaster of Tunbridge cannot decide whom to deliver this to, as he does not know the writer. Cannot find.

Many letters, failing the name of the persons addressed, give descriptions of their occupations or personal appearance. Here are a couple of instances in point:—

This is for her that "maks" dresses for ladies, that "livs" at tother side of rode to

James Brocklip,  
Edensover,  
Chesterfield.

This is for the young girl that wears spectacles, who minds "two babies."

30, Sheriff-street,  
Off Prince Edwin-street,  
Liverpool.

Poor persons, we are informed, have a very extraordinary idea of this department of the Post Office, popularly known as the "dead-letter office." Letters are continually being received begging the secretary not to return any more dead letters, as they bring death into the house. One person, after complaining that twenty-four persons have died in her immediate neighbourhood since a dead letter had been returned to her from the Post Office, begs the secretary that, if any more of those dead letters for her should come back, he should "burn them and never send them back to hear to me after that." One letter we were permitted to inspect is directed to the coroner and jury who should sit upon the writer's body, giving them full directions what to do with it. Swindlers find the address "poste-restante" very convenient for their purpose. The following advertisement appeared in several country newspapers—a singularly clever bait held out and duly gorged, as we shall show:—

An elderly bachelor of fortune, wishing to amuse himself by testing the credulity of the public and to benefit and assist others, will send a suitable present of genuine worth, according to the circumstances of the applicant, to all who will send him seventeen stamps, demanded merely as a token of confidence. Stamps will be returned with the present, carriage-paid. Address (varied, according to circumstances).

What were the number of stamps that flowed into the exchequer in answer to this cunningly-worded advertisement we do not know, but we are informed that between 300 and 400 letters, all containing the seventeen stamps, were returned to this department, failing to find him at addresses which were, no doubt, too hot to hold him.

## LAW AND CRIME.

It is at least satisfactory, in the absence of better news, to know that the family of the Rev. Mr. Speke are not concealing from the public the possible intelligence of his return. This position had been freely suggested until contradicted by a letter from C. T. M., published on Wednesday last. Meanwhile, we yet deem it most probable that the missing gentleman has not been made away with either by his own hand or that of another. A *Times* correspondent, whose signature, "M. T.", is known to be that of the editor of a popular magazine, and a writer accustomed to research, has been the first to note that Mr. Speke had a married sister residing at Queen-square, Westminster, in a house of which the garden abuts on Birdcage-walk, where the hat was found. But Mr. Speke knew well that his sister was away from town, and that the house was in charge of a housekeeper, with whom he could have had no concern, and who certainly is not likely to have murdered a casual visitor. The question arises, "Where could he have been going on business to Westminster?" A reference to the *London Directory* may solve this by showing that "C. T. M.", who resides in Eccleston-square, has his office in Parliament-street; but this fact lends no greater light to the quest. We regard the murder theory as improbable, because of all evidences with which street assassins would care to incumber themselves, that of a body—dead or living—would be about the last. The order of a new hat appears to us to set aside the idea of premeditated flight or suicide. There, then, only remains that of unpremeditated absconding; and we can scarcely imagine a stronger reason for a clerical gentleman's keeping out of the way—from a wedding party especially—that of facial disfigurement in a nocturnal broil with disreputable characters following up shameful threats by violence. One correspondent after another in the daily journals tells stories of this kind of crime; and if we were to select one portion of the metropolis as more likely than others to be the scene of such deeds it would be the neighbourhood of the parks.

Of all revelations of national manners, under which head eccentricities may reasonably be included, none are more interesting than those exemplified in our law courts. At the Queen's Bench, on Monday last, a strange picture was presented in a cause of "Izod v. Morgan." Plaintiff was a surgeon, defendant a captain, and a gentleman of property. The parties were neighbours, and seem to have rendered themselves mutually disagreeable as might be, until the enmity culminated in an action. The plaintiff, having attended the defendant professionally, sent in his account, which was paid. Thereupon defendant, apparently regarding any one who would present and receive payment for a bill of charges as no gentleman, is said to have annoyed and insulted him wherever they met. On one occasion the captain assaulted the surgeon, and was bound over to keep the peace. Both parties drove their own vehicles, and when they met or overtook each other on the road, the defendant would scarcely give plaintiff room to pass, while plaintiff would set defendant's horse kicking. They quarrelled over a dead bird, shot by the one and fallen into the grounds of the other. The defendant's case was that the surgeon was accustomed to make scornful grimaces when they met, and that he (the captain) had thereupon told him that he was already "ugly enough" without voluntary facial distortion. Then the surgeon struck at the captain, and fell or was knocked down, after the captain, according to one statement, had rashly threatened to pull out his opponent's tongue and liver, and the surgeon had called the captain a "sociated prize-fighter." A verdict was returned for the plaintiff, with £20 damages. What a strange thing it is that persons of means, holding the position of gentlemen, should not only be incapable of better manners, but should be unable to keep their miserable squabbles from the public!

When the next Metropolitan Streets Bill shall be proposed for enactment, it is to be hoped that at least three common offences dangerous to the safety of passengers along the public thoroughfares will be marked out for abolition. One is the practice of casting of orange-peel upon the pavement, an offence which ought at least to entail a compulsory visit to a police station and a small fine or short detention. Of like character is the dropping of lighted fuses upon the footpath. The third is the public alms-seeking by cripples and deformed persons, who seek to obtain charity, not by actual mendicancy, but by exhibition of their ailments. Many of these are well known to the London pedestrian. There is, for one, "The Hairpin," a wretched old woman, bent double, who, with her head between her knees, may daily be seen pro-menading the Strand. There, also, may be found "The Sugar-tongs," a miserable vagrant, whose progression depends upon clasping his feet with his hands. "The Revolver" is infinitely the worst of these vagabonds. Supported on two crutches, he stamps rapidly along, flinging out his feet, cased in iron-shod boots, wildly, in circles, from his knees, threatening bruises and destruction to the shins of all around. This fellow's favourite time and place seem to be the exterior of a theatre at closing time. He suddenly appears in the midst of the parting throng and kicks out on all sides, to the terror of ladies and the confusion of their protectors. We have seen lately a lady, evidently in a most delicate condition, only saved from a savage kick from this ruffian by a sudden snatch which caused her to scream. In the presence of such an Irus, one could almost long for a Ulysses.

## POLICE.

A HANDBOME GIFT WELL BESTOWED.—At Bow-street, Sir Thomas Henry handed to the reporters, for publication, a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"10th February, 1868,  
TO THE MAGISTRATES OF THE POLICE COURT,  
BOW-STREET.

"Gentlemen,—I have the pleasure to hand you a trust deed, investing £1000 in the hands of trustees, to pay the dividends to you for distribution amongst meritorious officers of the Metropolitan Police Force. This £1000 is now worth £1160, and will produce now £65 per annum. Thanking you for your obliging courtesy in this matter, I am, gentlemen, yours very truly,

"H."

Sir Thomas Henry said the gentleman who had had the liberality to make this handsome investment did not wish his name to be published, though,

of course, it appeared in the trust deed. According to that deed, the interest was to be handed over annually to the magistrates of that court, two of whom could give a receipt for the same. At the same time, the magistrates, in the application of the fund, would not be limited to the district of that court, but would be at liberty to distribute it amongst such officers as had been injured in the performance of their duty or had distinguished themselves by unusual bravery in any part of the metropolitan police district throughout the year. He must say it was very desirable that constables should be encouraged in the resolute and fearless discharge of their duty.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE WATCHES?—A few days ago the police made a clever capture of stolen-watch receivers. Three officers of the F division, in plain clothes, placed themselves to watch a certain house at Hackney. While so doing, they became aware that three men were also anxiously on the look-out for some arrival, and the movements of the latter were closely observed. At length a railway-van arrived, and a small box was delivered. By a ruse one of the officers approached without suspicion, and saw one of the men sign the delivery-book. A signal was then given, the other policemen came up, and the suspected men were taken into custody. The box, which came from Liverpool, contained twenty-one gold watches and some chains, all the produce of robberies. In the cellar of the house was another box of exactly the same size, and addressed in the same handwriting; while on one of the prisoners was found a letter inclosing the 1st at £29 18s., and expressing a hope that the transaction would be completed without any such squabbling as occurred on the last occasion. A number of pawnbrokers' duplicates, representing watches and chains, were also found on the prisoners. On Saturday the men were brought up at Bow-street; and, some evidence having been taken as to the ownership of the property, they were remanded.

CHARGE OF HORRIBLE CRUELTY.—On Tuesday a woman named Charlotte Winfield, of lady-like appearance, and seemingly about forty-five years of age, was brought before the magistrates at Brighton and charged with an assault on William Turgood, under circumstances involving the perpetration of systematic horrible cruelty. The warrant on which the prisoner had been brought up had been granted on the application of an officer of the Buckinghamshire police, and the prisoner's son, a youth of about sixteen years of age, was included in its provisions; but he was not apprehended with his mother. He, however, surrendered later in the day. The accusation preferred against the prisoners in the testimony adduced may be summarised as follows:—The child, William Turgood, is six years of age, and the son of a widow residing at Bovey, near Windsor. The prisoner, Charlotte Winfield, is his great aunt, and the boy had for seven months, till recently, been staying with her at Brighton, where she resided with her son Alfred, who is between fifteen and sixteen years old. The mother of the little boy had repeatedly written, asking that he might return to her; but the prisoner had replied that he was so fond of her as to cry on being informed that he was to go home. His mother last week insisted that he should be sent back, threatening that otherwise she would fetch him. He was sent home, but was then in such a condition that he could hardly stand. Sir Charles Palmer, one of the local magistrates, accompanied by a doctor and Thomas Dunham, superintendent of the Bucks constabulary, went to examine the child; and Sir Charles Palmer took his statement. The boy was unable to attend the court at Brighton. The officer deposed that there were more than fifty wounds and scars all over the child's body—some of them of old standing. The little fellow told them that some had been inflicted with a knife and some with a poker red-hot, with which he had been burnt nearly every night. Both his ears had been burnt with the poker and they were now thus wounded and discharging. The bridge of his nose was broken, and one of his fingers also was broken. His body was emaciated, and the bones nearly coming through his skin. The child described the poker with which the burns had been inflicted, and the officer, when he searched the prisoner's house in Brighton, found there a poker of this description. Charlotte Winfield was arrested on Tuesday, but her son was not then in Brighton. The elder prisoner was much excited, and asserted that she did not burn the child, but her boy Alfred had done it, and had also burnt her with vitriol from a syringe. She said in court that the dear little child William was always so good he did not want beating. She was too fond of him, and she would give the magistrates her word of honour she had never beaten him. Her son Alfred had burnt him, but the cut on his head was caused by his falling over the fender. When the son, Alfred Winfield, was brought to the court after his mother had been remanded, the evidence given against her was read to him. He denied that he had burnt the boy, but his mother said he had behaved cruelly to William Turgood, whereupon Superintendent Crowhurst testified that the son had declared to him that he had never assaulted the little boy, but had shown him every kindness. It was his mother who had ill-treated him. The child's statement, not being on oath, was not read. Both prisoners were remanded. The magistrates consented to accept bail for the elder prisoner—himself in £100, and one surety in £100, or two in £50 each.

STUPIDITY IN BERKSHIRE.—On Tuesday, at the Newbury Petty Sessions, Maria Giles, alias the "Cunning Woman," and William Tranter, a labourer, were charged with obtaining divers sums of money from Isaac Rivers by means of false pretences. Giles is an old offender, having been convicted on three occasions of crimes of this class. The prosecutor is a respectable-looking man, living at Hampstead Norris, a few miles from Newbury. It appeared from his evidence that in December last he lost his watch, and, hearing of the "Cunning Woman" at Newbury, he consulted her with reference to his loss. He paid his first visit to her house on Jan. 4; and having told her of his loss, she said she could get the watch back for him. She commenced by asking him to let her have twelve shillings, but as he was going a journey he could only spare half a crown, which she took, and then said she would show him in a glass the man who possessed the watch. Giles next produced a glass resembling those usually

attached to birdcages, and told Rivers to look into it. He did so, and saw something in the form of a man's whiskers, but no face. He met her again on Monday, Jan. 6, when she told prosecutor he must give her 9s. 6d. to get some stuff from her chemist's. He gave her the money, in the belief that she could get his watch back, but told her that if she did not do so he would have her put in prison. She had her hand on the table at the time, and said she hoped she would never take it off again if she did not get the watch back. Giles subsequently said that she must go over to River's house, and she and Tranter and prosecutor went over to Hampstead Norris the same afternoon. Tea was prepared for Giles and Tranter, and when they had finished the meal Giles said she must get about her work. Giles went out of doors for about half an hour, and on her return she said she must have 9s. 6d. more to get some more stuff. She also told him she had been to the house of the man who had the watch; that the man was very hardened, but his wife was more hardened still. Prosecutor gave Giles 9s. 6d. a second time, and Giles and Tranter left, but, finding Rivers a profitable customer, paid him another visit on the following day, and Giles begged of him to let her have 25s., as she would then get the watch back. Prosecutor still believed she would do what she promised, and therefore gave her the 25s. Tranter assured prosecutor that Giles would "work it round all right;" and Giles, who represented Tranter to be her husband, said he could help her in her work. After this, Giles said she must go about her work. She promised that between twelve and one o'clock at night she would bring the man to prosecutor with the watch in his hand, and she instructed him (prosecutor) to remain indoors until she returned with the man; but, said the prosecutor, "I might have bid at home till now, as she never came again, and I neither got my watch nor money." At the close of the prosecutor's evidence, the prisoners were remanded for further examination.

A "SEVERE CENSURE."—The body of a woman, whose sudden disappearance from Bromley, in Kent, has caused great and painful excitement, was recently found at the bottom of a well in the neighbourhood, into which she had evidently fallen head foremost. She was last seen about midnight in the company of two men. At one o'clock cries of murder were repeatedly heard by a man, who, however, had not the courage to get up and ascertain the cause of them. The jury returned an open verdict of "Found drowned" and severely censured the two men who were last seen in the company of the deceased, and who were known to have offered her violence.

VACANT CORPORATE OFFICE.—A very ancient office in the Corporation of London—that of Keeper of Guildhall—has just become vacant by the retirement, from failing health, of Mr. Josiah Temple, in whose family it may be said to have been hereditary for nearly eighty years. Until towards the end of last century it was an office purchasable from the Corporation, like some others, and there is a tradition at Guildhall that at one time as much as £6000 had been paid for it; but on the death, in 1791, of Mr. Timothy Inston, who was the last holder by purchase, that state of things ceased, and Mr. George Temple, the father of the gentleman who has just retired, who was elected to succeed Mr. Inston, held it by gift at a salary, and accounted to the Corporation for all the fees and emoluments connected with it. George Temple held the appointment for thirty years—namely, until his death, in 1821, the City Lands Committee in June of that year having reported to the Court of Common Council that his deportment had been such as in every respect to merit their approbation, and to entitle him to their favourable consideration. That report was made with the view to a pension; but, death intervening before the intention could be carried into effect, the Court of Common Council evinced their appreciation of the services of the deceased by placing the office in commission, so to speak, or intrusting it to his executors until his eldest son became of age to succeed him. That son held it from August, 1824, until his death, in 1847; when his brother, Mr. Josiah Temple, a most worthy man, and held in great respect by the Corporation, succeeded him, and occupied the office for more than twenty years. Besides being keeper of Guildhall, Mr. Temple was "farmer" of weights and measures in the City, the stamping of which he superintended, and also Yeoman of the Chamber, an office to which no dutes now attach, and which entitled him to rank as one of the Lord Mayor's household. The emoluments from these various offices of Mr. Temple, who retired on Monday last, were over £600 a year in the aggregate, £300 of which was derived from the office of hall-keeper, in addition to £105 in lieu of a house; and the Court of Common Council have awarded him a pension of £350 a year for the remainder of his life, with many expressions of good will, in consideration of his length of service, his inflexible integrity, and his uniform urbanity and devotion to his duties. The vacant office is in the gift of the Court of Common Council.

## THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7.

BANKRUPT.—W. J. TAYLOR, Wandsworth, clothier.—T. W. GRADY, Hastings, grocer.—G. PARKIN, Wye, grazier.—W. H. WREYFORD, Sevenoaks, grocer.—J. W. WHITE, Whitechapel, grocer.—J. W. H. COOPER, Old Bond-street.—E. BLANCHFORD, Hoxton, baker.—T. BOOKHAM, Ratcliffe, victualler.—H. BENNETT, Golden square, professor of music.—C. D. RUSSELL, Paddington, retired officer of the Bengal Civil Service.—W. H. ENTWISTLE, Marylebone, chairmaker.—F. FRANKLIN, Goodman's-fields, superintendent of the Jews' Orphan Asylum.—F. VACCARINO, Waterloo-road, clerk.—W. WEST, Beaumont, baker.—P. BERYL, Houndsditch, jeweller.—H. T. FWARD, Whitechapel, grocer.—H. LEWIS, Deptford, baker.—H. MARSHALL, Hammersmith, grocer.—J. G. MORGAN, Lower Stamford, brewer.—S. COPPEL, Bishop's Castle, Fallop, clerk.—J. SANDERS, Ast-juxta-Harrowbridge, builder.—J. SCAMMELL, Edgington, farmer.—W. SHAW, Newark-on-Trent, hatter.—S. SMITH, Plymouth, fruiterer.—C. SMITH, Manchester, licensed victualler.—C. SMITH, Merton, grocer.—J. MCQUIGEN, Blackpool, dining-room keepers.—W. FARRELL, Wakefield, carrier.—P. FARRELL, Safford, builder.—J. FIELDING, Egremont.—J. H. FULLER, Liverpool, commission agent.—R. FULLER, Waldron, miller.—T. GOULD, SEN, Birkenhead, timber merchant.—J. CRAKE, Southport, joiner.—T. RYVES, Lower Sydenham, Major.—J. SMART, Springfield, butcher.—A. SMITH, Regent's Park, housekeeper.—R. SPARKS, London, wine and spirit merchant.—G. STOCKER, Hyde Park, chimney sweep.—W. A. SWINNERTON, Brixton, hotel-keeper.—G. P. VALLAS, Camberwell, plumber.—J. WOOD, Great Yarmouth, mercantile.—M. ABRAHAMS, Dover, glazier.—J. ALLEN, Layer-de-la-Haye, general-shop keeper.—E. BARTLE, Great Horton, painter.—W. F. BOYS, Everton, linguist.—M. BRYARS, Brampton, greaser.—T. CAWOOD, Stanningley.—T. W. COPPER, and J. D. ALLEN, Birchwood, timber merchants.—J. CRAKE, Southport, joiner.—L. DAWSON, junction, joiner.—J. HARRISON, Allesley, shopkeeper.—J. HOLLOWAY, Barnstaple, cabinetworker.—J. JONES, Trelawny, draper.—P. KEENAN, Workington, innkeeper.—B. LUKE, and J. P. MORGAN, Bristol, hoe manufacturers.—W. LUNN, Hunslet, coal dealer.—J. M'CAFE, West Gorton, provision-dealer.—S. J. and K. M'QUIGEN, Blackpool, dining-room keepers.—W. PARKS, Farnworth, innkeeper.—W. MARSHALL, Solihull, upholsterer.—M. M'CALL, Bishop's Castle, upholsterer.—G. MORGAN, Lower Peniarth, sawyer.—C. OPPY, Long Down, smith.—J. POOL, Birmingham, joiner.—R. RHODES, and B. FEAT, Padsey, wool extractors.—T. PRESTON, Ashton-under-Lyne, spinners.—W. BISHOP, Bishop's Castle, Fallop, clerk.—J. SANDERS, Ast-juxta-Harrowbridge, builder.—J. SCAMMELL, Edgington, farmer.—W. SHAW, Newark-on-Trent, hatter.—S. SMITH, Plymouth, fruiterer.—C. SMITH, Manchester, licensed victualler.—C. SMITH, Merton, grocer.—J. MCQUIGEN, Blackpool, dining-room keepers.—W. FARRELL, Wakefield, carrier.—P. FARRELL, Safford, builder.—J. FIELDING, Egremont.—J. H. FULLER, Liverpool, commission agent.—R. FULLER, Waldron, miller.—T. GOULD, SEN, Birkenhead, timber merchant.—J. CRAKE, Southport, joiner.—T. RYVES, Lower Sydenham, Major.—J. SMART, Springfield, butcher.—A. SMITH, Regent's Park, housekeeper.—R. SPARKS, London, wine and spirit merchant.—G. STOCKER, Hyde Park, chimney sweep.—W. A. SWINNERTON, Brixton, hotel-keeper.—G. P. VALLAS, Camberwell, plumber.—J. WOOD, Great Yarmouth, mercantile.—M. ABRAHAMS, Dover, glazier.—J. ALLEN, Layer-de-la-Haye, general-shop keeper.—E. BARTLE, Great Horton, painter.—W. F. BOYS, Everton, linguist.—M. BRYARS, Brampton, greaser.—T. CAWOOD, Stanningley.—T. W. COPPER, and J. D. ALLEN, Birchwood, timber merchants.—J. CRAKE, Southport, joiner.—L. DAWSON, junction, joiner.—J. HARRISON, Allesley, shopkeeper.—J. HOLLOWAY, Barnstaple, cabinetworker.—J. JONES, Trelawny, draper.—P. KEENAN, Workington, innkeeper.—B. LUKE, and J. P. MORGAN, Bristol, hoe manufacturers.—W. LUNN, Hunslet, coal dealer.—J. M'CAFE, West Gorton, provision-dealer.—S. J. and K. M'QUIGEN, Blackpool, dining-room keepers.—W. PARKS, Farnworth, innkeeper.—W. MARSHALL, Solihull, upholsterer.—M. M'CALL, Bishop's Castle, upholsterer.—G. MORGAN, Lower Peniarth, sawyer.—C. OPPY, Long Down, smith.—J. POOL, Birmingham, joiner.—R. RHODES, and B. FEAT, Padsey, wool extractors.—T. PRESTON, Ashton-under-Lyne, spinners.—W. BISHOP, Bishop's Castle, Fallop, clerk.—J. SANDERS, Ast-juxta-Harrowbridge, builder.—J. SCAMMELL, Edgington, farmer.—W. SHAW, Newark-on-Trent, hatter.—S. SMITH, Plymouth, fruiterer.—C. SMITH, Manchester, licensed victualler.—C. SMITH, Merton, grocer.—J. MCQUIGEN, Blackpool, dining-room keepers.—W. FARRELL, Wakefield, carrier.—P. FARRELL, Safford, builder.—J. FIELDING, Egremont.—J. H. FULLER, Liverpool, commission agent.—R. FULLER, Waldron, miller.—T. GOULD, SEN, Birkenhead, timber merchant.—J. CRAKE, Southport, joiner.—T. RYVES, Lower Sydenham, Major.—J. SMART, Springfield, butcher.—A. SMITH, Regent's Park, housekeeper.—R. 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